

December 15, 2020

Dear Resident/Family Members and McLean Staff,

As you have heard by now, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved and ready for distribution to the healthcare workers and residents in long term care. Later this week, the Moderna vaccine will likely have FDA approval. We have long awaited this exciting news.

We understand that some of you may be concerned about the safety of these new vaccines, as they have been developed and tested far more quickly than those in the past. Based on our review of the best available information, the speed with which these vaccines were developed is not due to skipping important safety steps, but rather the result of focused, collaborative work performed by experts across the globe. Reports indicate the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have undergone the same level of rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines, and they have been tested in over 100,000 people, including older adults. Two independent advisory committees of experts from academic institutions also monitor vaccines to ensure their safety.

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three or four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. At this point in time, NO ONE has had a serious side effect from the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Sometimes there is misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions, as you may have heard someone say a vaccine has “made them sick” or given them the disease that the vaccine was intended to prevent. We want to be clear that this is not the case. The COVID-19 vaccine is NOT made from the COVID-19 virus, and it cannot give you a COVID-19 infection.

We at McLean, along with thousands of other long term care facilities, are participating in a program with the Centers for Disease Control to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines to our residents, free of charge, once they are available. We expect to administer the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on January 6, 2021. Our staff will also have the opportunity to get vaccinated through this program, if they have not been vaccinated previously.

We encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, its possible side effects, and what to expect after you or a loved one receives it. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our residents and staff have been and remain our top priority. We hope that the worldwide, unprecedented scientific achievement of these COVID-19 vaccines will eventually enable us to enjoy life with our loved ones again. We look forward to doing our part in this effort by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, and hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



Lisa Clark, Administrator



Wayne Paulekas, M.D., Medical Director