

**COVID-19 Vaccination Letter to Residents/Representatives and Staff**

Date:

Dear **[enter intended recipient],**

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, including Moderna and Pfizer. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reviewed the EUA guidance and issued recommendations for individuals 12 years of age and older (Pfizer) and 18 years of age and older (Moderna) to have a booster dose of the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines at least 2 months after the last primary dose or most recent booster dose. **[enter community name] will plan to offer the bivalent booster doses with the annual influenza vaccine clinic.**

As COVID-19 has progressed in the last 2+ years, we are blessed that technology has also progressed. The recently authorized bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are targeted to provide protection against the original strain and the BA.4/BA.5 Omicron variants compared to the initial vaccine that was a monovalent vaccine and only targeted the original strain of the COVID-19 virus.

While there has not been revised guidance for long-term care providers recently, the last guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid allows flexibility for residents who are up to date to reduce/eliminate requirements for isolation/quarantine upon admission, readmission and exposure. Up to date with COVID-19 vaccines includes the resident receiving all doses of a primary series and booster dose(s) when eligible. **[enter community name]** encourages all residents and staff to remain up to date with COVID-19 vaccines to protect all residents entrusted in our care.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continue to issue guidance for nursing homes to aide with prevention and transmission of COVID-19 in long-term care settings. While the current state of the pandemic is far better than what it was two years ago, it is still possible for variant strains to develop that may cause surges of COVID-19 illness, placing the residents we provide care for at an increased risk for severe illness, hospitalization, and death. CMS continues to work closely with the CDC on issuing guidance that reduces this risk, including flexibility for the residents and staff that are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. In addition to potentially reducing the risk for severe COVID-19 disease, those that are up to date on vaccines generally are not required to isolate to their rooms when they have close contact with an individual that tests positive for COVID-19 or upon leaving [**enter community name]** for longer periods of time. Preventing unnecessary isolation has proven crucial to the psychosocial well-being of the residents entrusted in our care.

Please communicate your intention of providing a bivalent booster dose as well as directing any questions you may have to **[enter contact person and information]** as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

**[Insert Name]**

**[Insert Title]**

References:

[Moderna Vaccine Information Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](https://eua.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/bivalent-dose-recipient.pdf)

[Pfizer Vaccine Information Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](https://www.fda.gov/media/153716/download)