

Date: March 18, 2022  
To: Residents, Caregivers, Families, and Friends  
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update and Passover**

## **OMICRON**

I have shared with you that we will continue to monitor COVID-19 and the related variants. We are aware that the Omicron variant is in the upswing in some countries around the world. At this time, we are not concerned about it spreading here like it had over the past few months. As always, I will let you know if we feel we need to adjust our protocols in the future (hopefully not).

## **Booster Shots**

Since we were one of the first sites to receive the booster shots and we mandated it from the start, we are now five months since those shots. From the information we have heard/seen, the booster's effectiveness starts to decline about five or six months after the shots.

I have been trying to explore our ability to receive second boosters. Until recently, there has not been much conversation about this. The push for the first booster was aided by the media hyper focusing on it—so it was pushed politically. However, this time the broadcasts are naturally focused on the war in Ukraine.

I believe that the thinking related to a second booster, until recently, has been that it is not necessary due to the number of people who contracted Omicron this winter and the overall decline in cases nationally. There have been only a few conversations suggesting that there may be a need for a second booster this fall.

You may have heard that this week Pfizer is requesting permission to offer a second booster to individuals age 65 or older. I was excited to hear this. I believe it is best for our community to proactively keep our vaccinations strong so that if something changes suddenly we may be ahead of any potential spread or serious illnesses.

We have had conversations with Walgreens about offering a new booster clinic. At this time, nothing is scheduled. However, once we hear the results of Pfizer's efforts, we will be circling back with Walgreens.

### **Type of Booster Shots**

There is good information regarding changing from one form of the COVID-19 shot to the other (e.g. Pfizer to Moderna). The reasoning is that each is slightly different and having both may offer better protection. At this time, I am unaware of Moderna moving forward with a request for a second booster shot. So, it is very likely that when the second boosters are available the shots will be Pfizer. Once second boosters are available, we will go with the one first available to us—likely Pfizer.

Just a reminder, if you feel you should receive a second booster shot, you are likely to receive one if you visit Walgreens or another pharmacy and express your concern.

### **Passover Seders**

Passover is fast approaching! Thankfully, we believe that we will be able to come together again safely for our community Seders! Naturally, if anything changes, we will adjust and “roll with it.” These past two years we certainly learned to plan and remain flexible.

There will be more information shared related to our two Seders; April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>. Our seating capacity will require reservations. To help us cover our costs, we need to charge for guests or residents not currently on one of our meal plans. Residents on meal plans who attend one of the Seders, there is a small up charge only to cover our costs.

Look for further information next week.

### **Carnival**

Yes, the rumors are true! We are looking into scheduling our carnival for sometime this summer! As you recall, we planned to have a carnival last summer but had to postpone it due to the Delta variant. So, barring another shift in COVID-19, we will be throwing water balloons at each other in the sun soon! Stay tuned.

Folks, as Spring begins next week, I hope you take the time to truly enjoy the warming weather. This has been a challenging winter for all of us—so let’s be grateful for and take some deep breaths outdoors. Soon spring will be here!

**Staying Strong, Staying Safe and Staying Connected! -- Gus**