

Date: April 28, 2022  
To: Residents, Caregivers, Families, and Friends  
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

### **Vaccinations Partner Change**

We have switched our vaccinations partner from Walgreens to East Rock Pharmacy. We switched to East Rock after several attempts to set up a 2<sup>nd</sup> booster clinic through Walgreens and CVS. East Rock is a great fit for us as many of our residents receive their medications through their delivery service. So, we are excited to work with their team going forward.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Booster Shots Clinic MAY 16<sup>th</sup>**

East Rock Pharmacy will be onsite to provide COVID-19 booster shots. They will offer 2<sup>nd</sup> booster shots to every resident and all caregivers and team members who qualify for the 2<sup>nd</sup> booster. Family members, who qualify, are also welcome to stop by The Towers to receive their booster shots. The more members of our community boosted, the better.

### **Qualification for 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster Shot**

To receive the second booster shot you must be:

- Age 50 years old or older or
- Immune compromised

### **If you HAVE NOT Received the First Booster Shot**

East Rock Pharmacy will be able to satisfy any level of immunization needed, including 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster, or even first time immunized.

### **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. East Rock will be offering both shots on May 16th. So, feel free to choose which one you would like. Just a reminder, until now all shots offered onsite at The Towers have been Pfizer. If you are not sure of which shot to choose, you may want to ask your doctor. Please be sure to speak with your doctor before the clinic day so that there is no delay when it is your turn to receive the shot.

### **Booster Clinic Schedule**

Two teams from East Rock Pharmacy will travel from floor to floor, and visit each resident apartment just as we have done with the other shots. We will not know the times when they will be at your apartment. So, if you are interested in the shot, please plan to be home throughout the day. One East Rock team will be located in the Dining Room from 9am to 12pm then from 2pm to 5pm for caregivers, family members and team members.

### **Booster Mandates**

At this time, the second booster shot **WILL NOT be mandated** for our caregivers or team members. We continue to watch the effects of BA-2, especially the hospitalizations and mortality rates. Thank G-d that fewer people are at serious health risk with this variant.

As we all have learned, we will make our plans then remain flexible. Therefore, there may come a time when we feel we should mandate the second booster for our community's safety. For now, we highly recommend that anyone who is eligible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> booster shot to receive the shot after 4 months from the first booster shot or 4 months from having recovered from COVID-19. At this time we are comfortable with it being left up to each individual to determine his/her best time for another booster.

### **East Rock Pharmacy Forms**

East Rock will be billing insurance companies (primarily Medicare) for the shots. Therefore, they need to have their forms completed just before shots are given. This is similar to what we had to do when working with Walgreens. On the day shots are given, each resident, caregiver, family member or team member will be required to answer similar questions (e.g. do you feel sick) and sign the form. Our Resident Services Coordinators (RSC)s will help organize the forms as best they can and will send forms to residents' conservators and powers of attorney (as applicable) prior to May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meals on May 16<sup>th</sup>**

All meals will be delivered to apartments on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This is to ensure that dining does not impede the team's ability to run the booster clinic in the dining room/Café spaces.

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