May 5, 2021

Dear Residents and Family Members,

We are writing to encourage you to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Despite all efforts to prevent COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, people who live in group settings may be at higher risk of coming into contact with a person infected with COVID-19 than if they lived alone or with few people. Many long-term care residents also have serious underlying health conditions, which put them at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

There are three vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen) authorized for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration. All three were shown to be safe and very effective at protecting people from severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death. The COVID-19 vaccines may also prevent the spread of disease to others. People who have already had COVID-19 should be vaccinated to prevent getting COVID-19 again.

It is not possible to get COVID-19 from any of the vaccines. Most people have some side effects from the vaccine, including soreness in the arm where they got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. Side effects can be unpleasant, but they usually are not a health concern and go away within 24 to 48 hours.

The resources below can guide discussions about the vaccine. If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, or if you have changed your mind after signing a declination form and would like to get vaccinated, please contact a member of our clinical team Nicole Hyde, RN at 212-337-5600 Ext. 9510 or Remal Valentine-Miles, RN at 212-337-5600 Ext.9236. We will arrange for our provider partner to provide the vaccine. The vaccines are provided at no cost.

Sincerely,

Additional Information:

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:
- Vaccine web page: nyc.gov/covidvaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccine Facts web page
- What New Yorkers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines
- COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions
- COVID-19 Facts video (available in multiple languages here)
  COVID-19 Vaccine Facts with Health Commissioner Dr. Dave A. Chokshi
  COVID-19 Vaccine Facts with First Deputy Commissioner Dr. Torian Easterling

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- What Older Adults Need to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines
- Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities