



January 15, 2020

Dear Messiah Lifeways® at Messiah Village Enhanced Living Residents & Family Members,

By now you have probably learned that COVID-19 vaccines have been approved and are being distributed to the healthcare workers and residents in “congregate care settings” like Messiah Lifeways. We have long awaited this exciting news.

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, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. 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 cannot give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

**We are partnering with our in-house pharmacy (Care Options RX) to help us most efficiently distribute the first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to Enhanced Living residents free of charge on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.** Care Options RX will come on site to administer vaccinations to residents with support from an Enhanced Living Nurse. More specific information and FAQs are enclosed, along with information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) specifically related to considerations for residents in long-term care. Also, please familiarize yourself with the sample consent form from Care Options RX included with this letter - we will be reaching out to request verbal consent from the designated representative within the week.

I 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 your loved one receives it by leaving a message on the Messiah Lifeways COVID hotline at 717-591-7249. Additionally, we’ve compiled helpful information (including this letter and its attachments) on our website at [MessiahLifeways.org/blog/coronavirus](https://MessiahLifeways.org/blog/coronavirus).

As we have been saying over the course of this difficult year, we are all in this together. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our team members and residents have been and remain our top priority. We are confident 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faith Matzoni DO", written over a horizontal line.

Faith Matzoni, DO  
UPMC Physician  
Medical Director, Messiah Lifeways

*Enclosures:*      Sample Consent Form from Care Options RX  
                         Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities (CDC)  
                         Vaccine FAQs for Enhanced Living Residents/Families (Messiah Lifeways)