

Dear Resident Representatives:

To optimize safety of our residents and staff, Germantown Home has successfully completed an intensive Covid 19 vaccination effort. Over 85% of our residents are now fully vaccinated (defined as being at least 2 weeks past the final vaccine dose). Effective May 1, 100% of employees in Germantown Home will have completed the Covid 19 vaccination, and vaccination will be required for all new hires. This high level of resident and staff vaccination dramatically reduces the risk of Covid 19 entering and spreading in the facility. We are working with our pharmacy to offer the Covid vaccine on an ongoing basis to accommodate new admissions, and we continue to strongly encourage unvaccinated current residents to obtain the vaccine.

Residents who are fully vaccinated will benefit from loosened infection prevention restrictions. Based on recent updates from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the CDC, and the PA Department of Health, our fully vaccinated long term care residents will now be able to:

- participate in communal dining, group activities, and social interactions without masks or social distancing, if they are grouped only with fully vaccinated residents
- forego the 14day quarantine after ER visit, hospital stay, or other potential Covid exposure, if they are asymptomatic and test negative for Covid

Germantown Home will continue to follow all recommended safety precautions for residents who are not fully vaccinated, including masking, social distancing, and 14day quarantine after ER visit, hospital stay, or other situations of potential Covid exposure.

Although all current Covid 19 vaccines in the US are highly effective, they do not provide 100% protection. A small percentage of vaccinated people can still become infected with Covid 19, although the risk of serious illness is greatly reduced. Also, there is uncertainty about the duration of strong immunity conferred by the vaccine, and the virus continues to mutate as outbreaks occur throughout the world. Therefore, ongoing caution is necessary. Germantown Home will continue to follow the most current guidelines for infection prevention, including processes for safe visitation. We appreciate the efforts of our visitors to exercise caution and diligence at all times.

I am relieved to see progress toward conquering the Covid 19 pandemic, and I look forward to a return to life approaching “normal” in Germantown Home, in our country, and globally. Please feel free to contact me or Germantown Home nursing and administration personnel if you have any vaccine or pandemic-related questions.

Best regards,

Mary Schuler MD

Medical Director, Germantown Home
215-951-4207 (office phone and voicemail)

April 30, 2021