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## Landis Communities Update December 16, 2020

With the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine this past weekend and impending additional vaccine authorizations expected soon, we know there are many questions among residents, clients and team members of Landis Communities. There is a great deal of information available at this time. We are committed to sharing what we believe will be most relevant and helpful as this process unfolds.

In previous updates we have referenced the tools we have in our toolbox to stop the spread of COVID-19. The vaccines now becoming available will be one of the most powerful tool we have to keep residents, clients and team members safe, along with wearing masks, watching distance and washing hands. Taking the vaccine is not mandatory at this time but be aware, if you are eligible to receive the vaccine but you decide to wait, it is unknown how long it may be before you are eligible again. The experts have proposed a priority for vaccine distribution that starts in the healthcare sector and then continues based on risks in the population. The timeframe before you may become eligible again could be determined on your age, health status, and vaccine availability.

On December 13, 2020, the CDC released ***8 Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program***. Here are excerpts from that document that may help to answer your questions:

- 1. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.**  
The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible
- 2. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.** A second shot, three weeks after your original shot, is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease.
- 3. Right now, the CDC recommends the vaccine be offered to healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities.**
- 4. There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine, but that supply will increase in the weeks and months ahead.** The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.
- 5. After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects.** This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.
- 6. Cost is not an obstacle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.** Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot.



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7. **The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under an emergency authorization from the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested.**
8. **COVID-19 vaccines are one of many important tools to help us stop this pandemic.** It is important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least six feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

As we have shared before, please continue to make the personal choices necessary to keep yourself and those around you free from the virus. This means making difficult decisions and staying home for all but essential reasons. When you do interact with people outside your household, it is best to assume that they may be asymptomatic positive and take all precautions possible.

Residents, clients and team members continue to be affected by COVID-19. The following reports from affiliates will provide details.

## **Affiliate Updates**

### **Landis Homes**

Testing for team members working in Healthcare continues twice weekly and weekly for those in Personal Care. Seven team members are out due to exposure, positive or pending tests.

Two Healthcare residents and one Personal Care resident were tested since last report due to symptoms. All tested negative. Four Residential Living residents were tested since December 9 – two were positive and two are pending. This brings the total for Residential Living since November 18 to 31 tests with 12 positive, 17 negative and two pending.

As shared last week, new mitigation strategies for Pennsylvania took effect December 12. We have updated the Residential Living Reopening Plan to reflect the changes made on campus. The document will be included with this update.

Landis Homes has received word that residents and team members working in Healthcare and Personal Care will begin receiving the vaccine later this month. Residents and POAs are being notified that, in collaboration with the PA Department of Health, we have connected with CVS Pharmacy. CVS will be administering the COVID-19 vaccine on campus to those who choose to receive it.

Residential Living residents interested in being vaccinated should consult the PA Department of Health vaccine plan and contact their primary care provider. Landis Homes is exploring ways to assist with vaccine distribution to residents but no plans are confirmed. We remain committed to being transparent in keeping residents, families, team members and our community aware and informed as this process unfolds.

Although this is not related to COVID-19, snow is coming down and we want to let you know the plan for the storm! The team will work to keep main roadways clear for emergency

vehicles and staff. Staff parking lots will be the next priority, followed by resident parking lots. Cottage and hybrid homes driveways will be next. Walkways and patios will be last. This may take until Friday. Please stay safe by staying home!

### **Welsh Mountain Home**

WMH has learned that resident and team member testing results last week were negative. With this good news, WMH will enter step two of the reopening process and residents will be able to leave their rooms and move about the community while observing the 3W's. We are grateful that we can move into step two before Christmas! Visitation is still prohibited at this time. Please watch Facebook and our website for updates.

### **Landis at Home**

Twelve Landis at Home team members are currently quarantined, two are positive for COVID-19 and the others are out due to exposure. Landis at Home is taking every precaution and clients and caregivers are notified when symptoms or exposure occurs.

### **Landis Adult Day Services**

Adult Day Services remains closed. The positivity rate in Lancaster continues to climb, with last Friday's rate at 14.8%. ADS is not able to reopen until that number drops below 10%. Last week the staff in Adult Day Services checked in with the participants and learned that three of them have tested positive for COVID-19. We pray for their recovery and safety. We continue to offer Virtual ADS through Zoom calls and provide activity options and our newsletter to the participants.

**Steeple View Lofts** – We are grateful that Steeple View Lofts remains free of COVID-19 to the best of our knowledge. Residents are making preparations to weather the upcoming storm safely.

**Residents, clients and family members may contact Jenny Sheckells** with questions or concerns at [jsheckells@landis.org](mailto:jsheckells@landis.org) or 717.381.3573. You may find other communications and videos on our website: [www.landiscommunities.org/COVID](http://www.landiscommunities.org/COVID)

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