

Landis Communities Update April 6, 2022

As we approach Easter and a time of remembering the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross, we also reflect on the life-altering actions each of us took over the past two years to keep each other safe and healthy. We did not gather together for Easter in 2020 and many remained socially distant for the holiday in 2021.

Landis Homes Director of Pastoral Services, Donna Mack Shenk, noted that “communicating the love of God transformed our actions.” She shared this Daily Quote from Inward/Outward Together to illustrate this thought:

“Young people say, “What can one person do? What is the sense of our small effort?” They cannot see that we can only lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time; we can be responsible only for the one action of the present moment. But we can beg for an increase of love in our hearts that will vitalize and transform these actions, and know that God will take them and multiply them, as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes.”

–Dorothy Day, The Catholic Worker, September 1957

We are grateful for each step, each action taken in love for the residents, clients and team members who are part of Landis Communities. Although we are not free from COVID-19, may this Easter be a time of celebration of new life, of health and of God’s grace for guiding us through each day.

Last week the FDA and the CDC recommended a booster for certain immuno-compromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least 4 months ago. Several questions have been asked regarding this recommendation, and we encourage individuals to consult their healthcare providers for personal guidance. In a March 31, 2022, Q&A article by Katelyn Jetelina, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, she addressed many of these questions. Here are some highlights of what she shared:

- The original booster continues to do a great job at preventing hospitalization and death. There is some evidence that this is waning over time, though.
- Your decision (to receive a booster) should be driven by weighing benefits with risks.
- If you had the first booster and a confirmed Omicron infection (i.e. positive antigen test or PCR test), there’s really very little need to get a fourth dose. Vaccine + infection is called “hybrid immunity” and over 20 studies have shown this works fantastically due to complimentary and broad protection.

- Consider mixing your fourth dose. If you got three doses of Pfizer then get Moderna for your fourth dose. Or vice versa.
- The older you are, the higher priority it should be on your to-do list. The future is uncertain, and the benefits of vaccines continue to outweigh the risks.
- There is a new government website called COVID.gov. It is a one-stop shop for everything—current transmission levels (according to new CDC guidelines), vaccine and test & treat locations, ordering free antigen tests, etc. I'm incredibly impressed with the website and wish we'd had it throughout the entire pandemic.



In light of the approval by the FDA/CDC of a 4th dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for individuals at least 4 months after their last booster dose, we are hosting two vaccine clinics by appointment on the Landis Homes campus for residents and clients. Please see below for details:

When: Monday, April 25, between 1:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4, between 1:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Where: High Foundation Auditorium in Crossings

Who: Please call Gretchen Shenk at x3546 to schedule your appointment. Please be patient and leave a message if she is on another call or unavailable. Someone will return your call as soon as they are able.

If these dates fill up quickly and additional clinics are indicated, we will schedule more in the near future. Many thanks to Phoebe Pharmacy for their partnership in making vaccines available to residents and team members on campus.

Unlike two years ago, we now have many ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is important to remain aware of transmission and hospitalization levels in your community and to be willing to take precautions when there is greater risk. Wearing high quality

masks, taking tests **before** seeing others who may be vulnerable and/or **after** being in a location where you could have been exposed, are just a few of the ways to protect yourself and those around you.

If you are unsure about the need to quarantine or isolate, the CDC has a new COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Calculator that can help you determine what you need to do given your personal situation. Visit the CDC website for more information.

Since last report, two cases have been reported in Residential Living at Landis Homes. We are not aware of any other residents, clients or team members testing positive for COVID-19.

We continue to work to restore of the activities and social interaction found at all of our locations. The goal is for restrictions to continue to be lessened and opportunities for connections to increase across Landis Communities.

Beginning April 4th, the pool schedule has been updated to offer times for residents to bring their family members or guests to the pool. Check out the new schedule on the Resident Apps or pick up a schedule in the Wellness Office. We have maintained “resident only” swim times for those that prefer.

The next COVID-19 Update will be May 4, 2022 unless we have important information to share.

Blessings to you for a wonderful Easter!

Larry Zook
President/CEO

Evon Bergey
Vice President Operations/COO