

Thursday 15 April, 2021

Dear Residents and Family members,

I am writing to update you on the Federal Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Program for aged care staff.

As you may be aware, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer is preferred over the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in adults aged under 50 years. Unfortunately, this recommendation means many of our staff will remain unvaccinated for the foreseeable future.

We are extremely disappointed that our frontline staff, who care for the most vulnerable in our community, will not be able to access a COVID-19 vaccine soon. We are hopeful that as the Federal Government purchases more doses of the Pfizer vaccine, aged care staff across the country will be able to access that vaccine quickly.

We are also grateful that the residents in five of our homes have received both their doses and another five homes have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We look forward to the eight remaining homes being scheduled for their first dose in the coming months.

We believe vaccination is still the best form of protection against COVID-19, and trust that in time all our staff will be vaccinated against the virus. Some of our residential home staff have been able to access spare vaccines during the resident vaccination clinics which has been wonderful, however the availability of these has been variable and limited.

We recognise that changing messages from the government have caused confusion among residents, clients and the broader community. We ask for your continued patience as the Federal Government refines its rollout processes, balancing the need to keep the community safe from COVID-19 with the need to be cautious with a new vaccine. You can find more information about the vaccination rollout at <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>.

As we wait for our staff to be vaccinated, please continue to practise your hygiene measures diligently, including not visiting your loved one if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, getting a COVID test if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, and using hand sanitiser or washing your hands regularly.

I thank you for your ongoing patience throughout the vaccination rollout.

Kind regards,



Karen Waugh

On behalf of Allan Waters, General Manager – Residential Services & Retirement Living