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## A Message from Executive Director Lennea Brown

Feb. 18, 2021

Dear Residents & Family Members,

Here at RiverWoods, the vaccine rollout is well underway in the Nursing Care and Personal Care neighborhoods. We expected to be able to begin facilitating the administration of the vaccine to these levels of care early on, and we have had great success delivering on that expectation with more than 190 of those who live or work in these areas having received at least the first dose so far.

While this news is positive, we also know that for residents in Independent Living the process has not moved along as quickly as we'd like to see. I wish I had a different answer to share today on that front, but I do not. What I can tell you, for whatever consolation it may offer, is that we are working every angle to help facilitate the administration of the vaccine to every resident and associate at our community. These efforts include contacting other outside agencies and pharmacies, as well providing awareness on how to receive it off-site if that opportunity is presented. I know you are eager to receive the vaccine and I'm just as eager to help you get it.

We must remember that the state and local health departments determine the expansion of the vaccine rollout based on the priority groups and, of course, availability. I know that you have probably heard, just like I have, that more vaccines are potentially closer to FDA Emergency Use Approval (EUA), and we

should be able to go deeper into the priority groups as time passes, and that would include expanding availability to residents in Independent Living.

In the meantime, the county and state health departments may have additional opportunities for you to receive the vaccine on your own should you meet the criteria. To learn more, you can go to the [Union County Health Department](#) page here and to the [Pennsylvania Department of Health page here](#). If you receive your vaccine off-site, please make Director of Enhanced Services/Community Liaison Heather Colpetzer aware (by [email](#) or phone, 570-522-6200) so that we can accurately track and document your information.

We have information, FAQs and more on our dedicated [Vaccine Information page here](#).

As always, please reach out to Heather or me with any questions.

Sincerely,

**Lennea Brown, NHA**

Executive Director

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