

January 14, 2021

Dear Charles River Center Residential Services Community,

I have some very exciting news to share with you regarding the COVID-19 vaccine program at the Charles River Center. As you know, there was federal program that matched long-term care providers to either Walgreens or CVS. Unfortunately, only 20% of the group homes across the state were matched to receive vaccinations through that initiative. Charles River was not matched.

As a result, we quickly pivoted to become our own vaccination site through DPH and EOHHS. It has been challenging to navigate the system and obtain the approval. We received confirmation that our application was accepted and now we are awaiting further instructions. Simultaneously, we are working with our pharmacy partner to have their company give vaccines as well.

In other words, as soon as the vaccines are delivered, we are will run two parallel tracks, CRC vaccination clinic and our pharmacy partner to get our residents and staff vaccinated as quickly as possible.

We anticipate being able to offer vaccines by the end of January. It will take several weeks to vaccinate all residential staff and persons served living within our group homes, with the first dose of the vaccine. Then 28 days later, the second round of vaccinations will start and progress for a few more weeks.

In February, we will be able to offer vaccines to our family support, in-home support, and adult foster care staff. The details of this rollout are still forthcoming.

Please read the message from [Commissioner Jane Ryder Message to Families 1.13.2021](#) as it outlines other options available to you and your family members approved to be vaccinated during this first phase.

Please also read the information about the vaccine on our website [COVID-19 Vaccine Information page](#). There are many great resources there that help you learn about the risk and benefits associated with receiving the vaccine.

We will be sending out consent forms to those who are legal guardians to our residents within the next week. It is important that we receive them ASAP as we cannot offer the vaccine without the signed consent.

We are thrilled to be entering into this next phase of the pandemic as it brings a renewed sense of optimism in keeping everyone safe and healthy!

Be Well,

Anne-Marie Bajwa  
President and CEO