

February 9, 2021

Dear Charles River Center Community,

As the [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#) continue to roll out throughout the state, I want to provide you an update about Charles River's vaccination initiative.

During Phase One of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, Charles River Center vaccinated 295 group home residents, direct care and support staff working in our group homes, and day program staff.

Phase Two of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Plan started February 1st people ages 75 and older became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. On February 6th, we partnered with Pelmeds pharmacy and hosted a successful community vaccination clinic for those who were eligible.

Later in February, our staff and residents will receive their second vaccine, which is very exciting.

Rest assured that there is strong advocacy on behalf of family caregivers and adult children with disabilities living with their family.

Representative Garlick and Representative O'Day, Arc Mass, and the Association for Development Disability Providers (ADDP) have advocated with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to allow family caregivers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism to receive the vaccine. (Go to www.thearcofmass.org to read the letter sent to Secretary Sudders by Representatives Garlick and O'Day)

Please visit the Arc Mass's action alert to the Governor to prioritize vaccine eligibility for family caregivers of individuals w/ IDD and autism and individuals in all day programs. [Arc Mass action alert](#)

The Massachusetts Vaccination Program is constantly evolving to include other eligible groups as more vaccines become available. Please keep abreast of the latest developments at www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine

As soon as the Charles River Center is permitted to obtain and administer vaccines for other eligible groups within our Charles River community, we will let you know.

Stay well,

Anne-Marie Bajwa
President and CEO