

# Goodwin House Public Statement | Dec. 18, 2020

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## Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

*Below, please read a letter that we distributed via email to families and friends of Goodwin House Residents on Friday, December 18, 2020.*

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We know that it is difficult for us all to experience the stricter protocols implemented during the holiday season. As much as we wish the situation were different, the steps we take are key to ensuring the safety and health of residents and staff. We are finding ways to foster a sense of connection and togetherness and have new approaches to holiday festivities. We hope you join us in finding ways to focus on the joyous spirit of this time of year. As always, we thank you for your continuing support and encouragement.

## Vaccines Are On the Way!

Amidst the difficulty of these past few weeks, we do have good news to report: COVID-19 vaccines are on their way to Goodwin House! We continue to receive more details almost on a daily basis as the situation evolves. We strive to share what we know in a timely manner, though we are asking everyone to be patient with us as we are not in the driver's seat. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), along with CVS will administer the vaccine, and they determine the plan and schedules for our vaccinations.

We have learned that we will receive the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for the initial GHA and GHBC clinics, not the Moderna vaccine as we had initially been informed. We do not know which vaccine we will receive for future clinics. We have been told that which vaccine is used may change as the plans evolve.

We will update you as we continue to learn more. Please also encourage your loved ones who are residents to get the vaccine when they are offered a chance to receive it. And if they share concerns with you about the vaccine, take time to listen and also encourage them to share their concerns with us so that we can become aware and strive to address them. We are all in this together and seek to support residents and staff as we work through this process.

## Upcoming Vaccine Clinics

The first two COVID-19 vaccine clinics at GHA will take place on Dec. 29 and Jan. 19. At GHBC, they will be held on Dec. 30 and Jan. 20. VDH has indicated that only residents and staff of the Health Care Center will be vaccinated at these clinics. We await information on when other residents and staff will be able to be vaccinated.

## Updates to Resident Protocols

In this week's Resident Update, we also shared updates to our Resident Protocols regarding required quarantine periods for certain types of off-campus activities. These adjustments take into account risk factors and resident quality of life. You might remember that we have shared a handy reference grid in the past. An updated grid was distributed along with this week's Resident Update.

## GHA Art Exhibit Featured in Local News

One of the recent art exhibits at GHA, "Memory: A Participatory Project" was featured in the local news outlet The Zebra. Residents and staff of Goodwin House Alexandria contributed stories, photos and artwork based on four prompts — My Childhood, Things I Learned From Grandparents, The Holidays and My First Home. [Read the Zebra's article](#) about the exhibit, which includes photos.

## Carolers Serenade GHBC Staff and Residents

Last week, carolers stood just outside the main lobby doors at GHBC to serenade staff and residents with traditional holiday songs. The caroling was part of a staff appreciation event, which also included gift bags, apple cider and hot chocolate. [Read all about the event](#) from a recent article featured in local news outlet The Zebra.

## Holidays Still Happy!

We know the holidays look (and feel) very different this year, though we are determined to ensure every one of them is bright and cheerful. Our Life Enrichment teams have fun plans up their sleeves, and we look forward to sharing more about our celebrations at Goodwin House in the coming weeks. With Christmas Day falling on next Friday, you can expect our weekly Friends & Family email to arrive on Thursday, December 24!