

Goodwin House Public Statement | Jan. 15, 2021

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, January 15, 2021.

We shared news with you over the weekend that Governor Ralph Northam had announced last week that he would accelerate the pace of vaccine administration throughout the state of Virginia. During his State of the Commonwealth address on Thursday, Governor Northam shared that they would also be acting quickly on the latest authorization from the federal government that allows states to offer the vaccine to adults age 65 and up.

Goodwin House welcomed this news as it now means that nearly all our residents are eligible to receive the vaccine. Residents received letters that provided them with their options for getting the vaccine. We continue to recommend residents take advantage of our on-campus clinics--both for convenience and safety. We included the dates for our upcoming vaccine clinics in this week's Resident Update.

Why Do Our Quarantines Differ from the CDC's?

We have received questions about why Goodwin House quarantines differ from those provided by the CDC. In late 2020, the CDC revised their recommendations and shortened quarantine periods in an effort to get more people to comply, especially over the holidays. The risk factors remain the same, and longer quarantine periods are safer. This is why Goodwin House opted to keep our quarantines longer, and we ask all residents to follow our guidelines.

Vaccines Mean We Can Relax, Right?

Not quite yet! As excited as we are about the vaccine, we are equally committed to continuing our infection precaution protocols.

It is important for us all to understand that receiving the vaccine does not mean you cannot contract or spread COVID-19. It reduces the likelihood that you will contract COVID-19 and might reduce symptoms if you do contract it. At Goodwin House, we will continue to follow the protocols even after we receive the vaccine.

We look forward to returning to life as we knew it prior to the pandemic, but we are not there yet. We remain vigilant and our return must be intentional and monitored as we

continue to protect residents and staff. We are working on updating our protocols and hope to be able to share our plans with you soon.

If you wish to get in touch with us, please send us an email.

Until next week, stay healthy and stay safe!