

Goodwin House Public Statement | Jan. 22, 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 January 22, 2021.

With another three on-campus vaccine clinics completed this week, we are excited to share that we are making wonderful progress. We expect close to 100% of residents will have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by the time of our final clinics!

Residents have really stepped up. They bring such enthusiasm and high spirits with them to the clinics, and that is clearly helping to spread hope.

Does the Vaccine Mean a Return to Normal?

It is hard to know what normal will be as we move towards more vaccinations, not just among the staff and residents of our communities, but throughout the region and across that nation.

We continue to emphasize that the vaccine does not mean an immediate or quick return to the before times as we communicated in this week's Resident Update [link]. We are all eager to welcome you back to campus for visits with your loved ones, and while the presence of the vaccine means that we are closer to that goal, we remain focused on protecting everyone's health and safety.

Getting staff and residents vaccinated is our first priority. It is also and just one of several factors that we consider as we work on the Safe Path Forward plan for beginning to resume visitations and other on-campus activities. We are also closely tracking positivity rates in Northern Virginia, which remain high. We are also staying on top of the emerging medical views and guidance regarding new COVID-19 variants, especially the B.1.1.7 strain from the U.K., which is predicted by health experts to become the dominant strain in the U.S. in the coming weeks. The spread of this strain, as well as the ability of the vaccine to combat it, will play out in the weeks ahead, and we'll be watching developments closely and taking them into account as we develop our post-vaccine plans.

In the meantime, we ask for your help encouraging residents to continue to practice social distancing, wear masks and frequently wash hands—even after receiving the vaccine. Residents should wear masks at all times when they are outside their apartment.

*We are committed to keeping you, residents and staff healthy.
Please join us in our efforts to keep our community infection-free.*



Thank you for your patience as we work on the Safe Path Forward plan for campus life once we have completed the vaccine clinics, and your assistance in reinforcing the protocols and guidelines that help keep everyone safe and healthy.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

This year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, GHBC residents and staff honored Dr. King's legacy by donating their time to make a difference in our greater community.

Safely distanced and masked, residents engaged in a day of service, including writing letters to military personnel and residents on the health care center, assisted living, and Terrace, packaging socks for the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter, knitting sweaters for youth through Knit for Kids and creating produce bags to go to Arlington Food Assistance Center. In just an hour and a half of service, they touched nearly 3,000 lives in the community. [See photos from the day](#) that were featured by local media outlet The Zebra.

In the Spirit of Dr. King

"We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future."

We want to end this week's Friends & Family update from a quote from Dr. King. This is from his fourth book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*, which was published in 1967. This week, we watched our nation transition to new leadership. Like our democracy, we can and will endure, and we have faith in the brighter days that lie ahead.