

Goodwin House Public Statement | Jan. 29, 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 29, 2021.

As we head into another weekend, we wanted to share our latest updates with you.

We're Making Progress on Vaccinations!

Thanks to the wonderful support and cooperation from staff and residents, we are making solid progress toward our goal of everyone receiving the vaccine. We are well on our way to nearly 100% of residents getting vaccinated, and approximately 75% of GHA and GHBC staff have received at least the first dose of the vaccine.

In this week's Resident Update we shared upcoming clinic dates for residents. We also shared that on Monday, Feb. 1, we will host a clinic at GHA for staff as well as two groups within the Goodwin House family: Goodwin House at Home members and Priority Club members (those who have applied to become residents) who are expected to move into one of our communities within the next year.

A few residents have asked why these individuals have access to the vaccine before resident family members. As we have expressed since the first clinics were being scheduled, we are not in control of the distribution of vaccines. The Virginia Department of Health decides, and they have indicated that they will not support distribution of vaccines to family members. We inquired as recently as today if we could vaccinate resident's family members and were once again told "no". We will continue to advocate that Goodwin House could be a resource for that outcome.

Continued Infection Precaution After the Vaccine

We want to share another reminder that receiving the vaccine does not mean you cannot contract or spread COVID-19. We have seen a few examples of this recently with some staff and residents who tested positive after receiving their first dose of the vaccine. The vaccine itself will NOT cause you to become ill from COVID-19. Vaccines don't contain a live virus. You can [read more at the CDC website](#).

The vaccine reduces the likelihood that you will contract COVID-19 and might reduce symptoms if you do contract it. You need both doses to get the best protection, and it takes some time after receiving the vaccine before effectiveness kicks in. The first dose provides a 50% efficacy rate approximately one week after receiving the dose, and the second dose provides a 95% efficacy rate after about two weeks.

The other important thing to remember is that we cannot relax our infection precaution practices—mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing—after receiving the vaccine.

Media Coverage of Goodwin House Vaccine Clinics

Goodwin House Vaccine clinics have received some attention from local news media. Most recently, GHBC clinics and residents were featured in these three pieces of local reporting:

- [Patch.com](#)
- [WAMU](#)
- [Falls Church News Press](#)

Winter Is Coming...

The D.C. area is preparing for a wintry weekend, with the potential for snow. We thank staff ahead of time for all work they will be doing to ensure that our campuses are safe and ready for whatever Mother Nature brings. We also plan to stay warm inside with cups of hot drinks and the good company of interesting reading material. If you plan to do the same, we invite you to check out [our latest issue of The Good Life](#). Released at the end of every month, this newsletter features articles published to our blog.

You can always reach out to us.