



January 13, 2021

TO: Residents and Family Members

FROM: Loriman Looke, Executive Director and Administrator

This is the first time since the COVID crisis began that I have been able to send you a message of hope and the prospect of better times ahead. In December, to be sure, our spirits were not as high. Three care team members tested positive for COVID-19 during the weeks of December 7 and December 14. Under CDC rules, that meant we increased our testing of care team members and essential visitors, as well as the residents in some units, to weekly until we achieved zero new cases of COVID for a period at least 14 days from the last positive result.

Today I am pleased to share that there have been no additional positive test results since the week of December 14, so we've been able to revert to biweekly testing. We are testing again this week, with test results pending at the time this letter went to print. I applaud the efforts of all care team members and residents for their diligence in helping keep the coronavirus out of the Anderson Inn. It is no small feat.

As we move into the new year, the horizon looks brighter than it has since last March. Why? One word: vaccines. The Federal Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorizations, in December, of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines has given us the primary antidote we need to put an end to this devastating pandemic.

Here at the Anderson Inn, we are elated to have hosted, with expert support from Guardian Pharmacy of Maine, our first COVID-19 vaccination clinic last week. I am thrilled to report that a combined 215 residents and care team members received part one of the two-part vaccine. A second clinic, to give those individuals shot #2, is set for Thursday, February 4.

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Why weren't cottage residents included in last week's clinic? Residents and care team members of the Anderson Inn qualified to receive the vaccine as part of the government's first distribution phase because part of the Inn is federally licensed as a nursing facility. The nursing license does not extend to the cottage community. As such, the government has not allocated vaccines to inoculate cottage residents as part of this phase. This does not mean that vaccinations won't be offered to cottage residents. In fact, we are exploring ways to do so as soon as possible.

Will vaccination mean we can stop wearing masks and return to life as we knew it? The experts say no, not yet.

Bringing an end to an infectious disease crisis as serious as COVID-19, they advise, will require a multipronged effort: not only widespread vaccination but also masking, distancing and everything else we've been doing since last spring. They urge us to remember that while both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines appear highly effective at preventing you from getting sick, it's not yet known whether they prevent you from passing the virus to others. Moreover, it's important to remember that the rules that the CDC has laid down for senior-care providers like Quarry Hill are based on positivity rates on campus and current local transmission rates. We're hopeful, of course, that county rates will decline as more and more people get vaccinated, but for now, they remain high. It will indeed be cause for celebration when every resident and care team member willing and able to get vaccinated has done so.

However, until experts say it's safe to relax, we must remain vigilant. As I write, Knox County's positivity rates remain in the CDC's High Transmission Rate range, which prohibits us from offering indoor visits with family and friends (other than "compassionate visits" by order of a healthcare provider), group activities and resident outings (other than essential appointments).

As we work toward healthier, happier times, please remember that you can get the latest information anytime by calling our frequently updated, 24/7 COVID-19 phone line at 207-301-6300, or by visiting www.quarryhill.org/covid-19-response. If you have a specific question or concern, please don't hesitate to call me on my direct line, 207-301-6275, or contact me via email at llooke@pbmc.org.