



January 4, 2021

To the People Served by Lifeworks, their Families and Guardians:

I hope that each of you had a Happy and Healthy New Year's. I know that due to the Covid surge of the past few weeks, a number of you are currently experiencing the symptoms of Covid-19 and others have experienced the need to quarantine due to close contact with someone who was diagnosed with Covid-19. I know this may have been a challenging holiday for some, but overall I hope that each of you had a healthy and safe holiday season.

I am writing to inform all of you that we have received some excellent news. In October, 2020 Lifeworks registered for a distribution of a Covid-19 vaccine to be provided to the people who live in residences as well as all staff who have or could potentially work or be in contact with people from our residences. We are pleased to let you know that on Dec. 31, 2020 we were notified that Lifeworks has been approved to have the vaccine provided to all residents and employees listed at each residential site as a part of the Commonwealth's Phase 1 of the Covid-19 vaccination program. The Vaccine distribution will be provided and managed by local CVS pharmacies and will be done at each of our 18 residences. We are also pleased to let you know that all of the people we support, our staff, including those who work as substitute staff, staff from temporary agencies, visiting nursing agencies, our Lifeworks nursing staff, maintenance staff and all other staff who might at some point work in our residences will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

As the CEO, I have had the opportunity to review many of the materials involved with the vaccines that are currently available. Lifeworks is strongly urging all of the people we support in our residences to take the vaccine. It is our plan to provide a great deal of information about the vaccine, as provided by independent resources such as the CDC, the Dept. of Public Health and other medical resources. Currently over 1 million people in the country and over 100,000 in our state have received the vaccine. It is important to note that this will be the only opportunity we are aware of in the foreseeable future to get this vaccine in our programs. After this, the people we support will become a part of Phase 2 and 3, getting the vaccine as a part of the distribution to the general public for those Phases. This will likely mean a delay of months in receiving it and long lines when you do.

Here is a quick summary of what we know so far about the vaccine:

- We will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine. It will be stored, managed, distributed and given by CVS pharmacists and qualified CVS employees.
- The Pfizer vaccine requires 2 shots- with the second one being given 21 days after the first one. All people who get the first shot as a Pfizer vaccine must take the same one in the timing of the cycle.

- All personal information that is provided by persons served in order to receive the vaccine, such as medical consent and health insurance information, will be reviewed and maintained by CVS- not Lifeworks and not the Federal Government.
- Lifeworks will provide a safe environment in which to administer the shots.
- All persons served, their family members and guardians will be provided an extensive packet of information including links to a number of websites from the CDC, DPH and renowned medical resources to assist in answering questions. This information will answer a great deal of questions for those who may have issues with trust or knowledge about the vaccine.

As I stated earlier, Lifeworks is strongly urging and asking all persons served and staff to be vaccinated. This vaccine gives each of us an early opportunity to further enhance our own safety, the safety of the people we support and our families. We understand that some people may have medical or religious conflicts. We encourage anyone with medical concerns to talk with their Primary Care Physician about any concerns they have over the vaccine. Lifeworks will provide several agency-wide zoom calls for families which will include our nursing staff to provide all of the information that we can.

Since March 16th, when this pandemic truly hit the programs of Lifeworks with the closure of our day programs, we have been committed to making all of our decisions for the agency and the people we serve based on the most reliable information and to ensure the health and safety of all. As staff of our agency, we have a duty and obligation to the people we serve, their families, to each other as co-workers and colleagues to do all we can to ensure the health and safety of all. Never has this duty been more clear than with the opportunity for each of us to get vaccinated.

Please visit these helpful links to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine:

1. <https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/wellness-prevention/not-sure-about-covid-19-vaccine-get-facts-then-decide>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
3. <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=the81FQoAUI>
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect.html>

Sincerely,

Daniel Burke