

# Memorandum



**To:** Medford Leas Residents and Staff  
**From:** Jeremy Vickers, CEO  
**Date:** January 8, 2021  
**Re:** Community Update

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Happy New Year and welcome to the *twentieth edition* of our weekly coronavirus and community update.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

**Vaccine Update** - We know that the topic of the coronavirus vaccine is in the forefront of the minds of residents and staff alike. The COVID-19 Task Force remains in constant contact with the State of New Jersey to secure the most current information regarding this topic.

**Group 1a** - According to the NJ State Plan (<https://covid19.nj.gov/>), all Medford Leas staff as well as all assisted living and Woolman residents and volunteers will be part of the initial group (Group 1a) to receive the coronavirus vaccine. We have been given a tentative date January 19<sup>th</sup> for our initial vaccine clinic. Our vaccine partner, CVS will be conducting this clinic. As has been reported in the news, the arrival of vaccine has been running behind the original estimates. Therefore, this date could change as this situation either improves or worsens. Our clinic date will be confirmed on or before January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Several local pharmacies and Burlington County are/were offering vaccination clinics. We encourage staff members to take advantage of these opportunities.

**Group 1b** - We have received many inquiries from IL residents who are anxious to receive the vaccine. The current State plan includes vaccination for all people over the age of 74 as part of the next priority group (Group 1b). We do not yet have any definitive information about how or when vaccines will be available for Group 1b. However, the State plan indicates that appointments will be made available at local and regional immunization sites once this process begins. We will continue to communicate more information, as it becomes available including local sites, the enrollment process and ML transportation to/from the clinics.

Unfortunately, there are scam artists taking advantage of the impending vaccine clinics and “phishing” for resident personal information. I urge all residents to confirm any advertisements to register for vaccine clinics with staff to confirm their authenticity. Tammy Gerhart sent out a more detailed memo about this today.

As previously stated, a high rate of staff and resident participation will be critical to our ability to protect staff and residents from the coronavirus. Dr. D’Amico and staff prepared two educational videos on the efficacy and safety of the coronavirus vaccines for all staff and residents: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7914795> and <https://vimeo.com/493828737>. I also suggest watching the following video which was developed in partnership with leading health organizations and Dr. Anthony Fauci to help healthcare providers better understand and answer common questions about the COVID-19 vaccination: <http://em.virtuacares.org/R00D2M7MGr0020q0GVVE740>.

Members of the COVID-19 Task Force will continue to make available information you need to make an informed decision. In addition, you may want to discuss the vaccine with your personal physician. Please take advantage of this and other opportunities to educate yourself about the vaccine for your health, the health of our staff and residents, as well as the health of your family, friends and neighbors. This continues to be a rapidly developing plan and we will keep you informed as more firm and complete information becomes available.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, and despite the advent of the new vaccines, each of us is reminded to:

- Practice proper hand hygiene
- Wear facial coverings/masks
- Maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from other people in all public/private spaces
- Adhere to maximum room occupancies in all public spaces

We have all worked so very hard for many months to protect our community. With the cold weather upon us, we need to be even more vigilant. We have not come this far to ease up now. Each of us must do our part to ensure the safety of all.

Coronavirus Cases - This week, I have 1 new staff case to report and no new resident cases to report. The grid below reflects the status of Medford Leas cases since the beginning of the pandemic.

<b>Medford Leas Cumulative COVID-19 Report</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
Resident	6	0	3	3
Staff	23	1	22	0
Total	28	0	25	3
<i>Non-State Reportable Cases (i.e. non-AL or Woolman): 4 Staff</i>				

## **KITCHEN HOOD PROJECT**

We understand that our residents are very anxious to return to our traditional “home cooked” meals and recipes. However, what had been originally begun as a fairly straight forward plan to replace the existing kitchen hood, has expanded into a much more complicated project. As the work proceeded, we discovered that there was significant need to improve our kitchen’s infrastructure. This additional work has caused a delay in the original project timeline and we apologize for that. However, with the dining rooms closed, this continues to be an ideal time to complete this work. We will continue to keep you informed as this project progresses. We now expect to have this project complete in mid- late-February.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**Bob Wasson Retirement** - On Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, we will host a socially-distanced celebration for Bob Wasson, our Medford Leas mail carrier. Bob has retired after 30 years of faithful service to us all. Please stop by the Estaugh Walkway to wish him well that afternoon. Times are posted on the weekly calendar.

**Fiftieth Anniversary** - Also, in March, we will begin a celebratory year to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Medford Leas. We are planning a series of activities to acknowledge and celebrate 50 years of dedicated service to our community. A group of residents, staff and members of the Estaugh Board have formed an ad-hoc committee to work on this. Our goal is to cap off our year-long celebration in March 2022, with a (no mask and not socially-distanced) community-wide celebration! During 2021, we will find ways to acknowledge and celebrate this meaningful accomplishment in a safe manner.