



January 15, 2021

Re: Update on COVID-19 Immunization Clinics

Dear Residents,

Thank you for providing us with the requested information in preparation for the COVID-19 Immunization Clinics. I am excited to let you know that the Clinics have been scheduled!

As you may know, the immunization is a series of two doses, so Alberta Health Service (AHS) has scheduled two clinics with Shalem, one for each dose.

First dose Clinic: **Friday, January 22, 2021**

Second dose Clinic: **Friday, February 12, 2021**

The staff are preparing for the AHS team so that the clinic can stay on schedule and run as smoothly as possible. Here is what you need to know:

- The clinic will be held from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm in the Shalem Atrium similar to the flu vaccinations held this past fall.
- To avoid Residents coming to the clinic all at the same time, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Haven bulletin board for half hour time slots to choose from. Note the immunization itself will take less than 10 minutes.
- The waiting area for the clinic will be in the Shalem Café. Please be there 10 minutes prior to your appointment. Staff will be directing the flow of people so you may be asked to wait in the main hallway prior to being directed into the Café. We need to comply with physical distancing requirements so please do not arrive early as we do not want large line-ups
- Once you receive your vaccination you will be directed back into the Café where you will need to remain for 15 minutes to ensure you have no adverse reaction.
- Unless you are medically unable, all Residents are required to wear a mask.
- Unless otherwise indicated, the immunizer will get your verbal consent prior to immunizing.

The COVID immunization is not mandatory and we respect each Resident's decision in this, however, given the risk to seniors in congregate living facilities such as Shalem, it is strongly advised that Residents are immunized with the COVID vaccine. Immunization is the single most effective means of protecting yourself, your loved ones, and the greater community from COVID-19.

If you are immunocompromised or have other health concerns, please consult with your physician prior to the initial clinic date to ensure that the benefits of the immunization will outweigh the risks. Additional information about the COVID vaccine, as well as vaccines in general, can be found at www.albertahealthservices.ca.

We are so grateful to everyone's efforts that have allowed Shalem to continue to be COVID-free. Having the immunization clinic just around the corner is definitely exciting! This is hopefully the beginning of the end to this difficult pandemic!

But please know that even with the immunizations, continuing to follow Alberta Health requirements is essential for as long as the requirements are in place. So, I ask that each of you please 'stay the course' and continue to practice the disciplines of masking, sanitizing and physical distancing that we have in place.

A few reminders:

- If you have not maintained physical distancing outside of Shalem or engaged in social gatherings outside of the provincial guidelines, please refrain from interacting with other Residents.
- Please limit social gatherings and the number of people in your cohort as much as possible. Again, we recognize the need to balance mental and emotional health but also rely on each Resident and staff to follow the provincial guidelines in order to keep each other safe.

There have been instances of Shalem Residents that have been indirectly or directly exposed to a COVID positive person but thankfully, no Resident or staff have tested positive for COVID. Know that Residents will be made aware in the event of a COVID case within Shalem. If a Resident is required to quarantine because of their interaction with another Resident, they will be notified. Otherwise, those incidences will remain confidential as much as possible.

Please reach out to either Dorothy Ryzebol or me if you have any questions.

We are almost there! Continue to persevere! Be grateful for the things we are able to do and people we are able to see each day if only in passing. A smile and a hello can go a long way and be done with the necessary physical distancing – even behind a mask!

Blessings to you all!



Dorothy de Vuyst
Executive Director