



COVID-19 Update

January 15, 2021

It has been an eventful week on many fronts, but we are primarily excited to report about the vaccine clinics that took place at six of our communities this week, with three more scheduled for next week. Mary Linde, Executive Director of St. Paul's Towers, reports that 100% of residents and 65% of staff, including vendors, signed up to get vaccinated. (Other staff had been vaccinated elsewhere, so that percentage is actually higher.) At Canterbury Woods, 180 residents and staff received the vaccine. And at San Francisco Towers, more than 550 residents and staff were vaccinated. As resident Ann Stone shared with KGO television, "It's a relief to know that at some point we're going to be able at least to go down and have dinner together," and Peter Dunckel said, "It was absolutely painless, perfect, and no after-effects whatsoever."

While we are thrilled at this good news and the progress begin made, we are also aware that we are not out of the woods yet. This week, we learned that the mother of Benson Lee, our Housing Administrator at Bethany Center in San Francisco, died after contracting COVID-19 in her Assisted Living community. Karim Sultan, our VP of Affordable Housing, wrote, "We lost Benson's mother last week after a wonderful long life of 92 years. Her passing was the result of contracting COVID-19. Unfortunately it looks as if almost every resident in her Assisted Living community has been infected with COVID-19. We have not seen that amount of community spread in our communities yet. I believe that the efforts that we have initiated have been effective in mitigating that level of spread. It is important that we redouble our efforts as we enter this period where vaccinations are starting to roll out. Having a relatively small amount of vaccine in the community will do nothing in the short term to mitigate new cases, hospitalizations and deaths. We are just crossing second base and headed to third. It is not the time to let our guard down! Let's keep fighting the good fight!!!"

On Monday we celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., though the date of his birth is actually today. In one of his sermons, he said, "Let us be concerned about others because we are dependent on others." If we're being honest, Independent Living is not possible for any of us. Dr. King was keenly aware of the importance of community because he knew that we are "in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." If COVID-19 has done nothing else, it has made this truth abundantly clear. Please continue to show your concern about one another and stay safe, knowing that what we do has the power to affect so many others. And may we be inspired to carry on Martin Luther King Jr.'s work of building the beloved community.