



COVID-19 Update

March 19, 2021

It was one year ago that Governor Newsom signed the Executive Order directing all Californians to stay home except to go to an essential job or to shop for essential needs. Looking back on this past year at Covia, we see an organization that has responded with fortitude and grace to the restrictions placed upon all of us.

On Wednesday, the California Department of Social Services (DSS) hosted its monthly call, fielding many questions from other communities such as ours about when and how they can further reopen. Dr. Louise Aronson, a gerontologist from UCSF, shared that part of the hesitancy on making wholesale changes is due to the fact that “We’re still learning” about the degree to which vaccination prevents communal spread. We’re told that a new Provider Information Notice (PIN) on changes to community restrictions after vaccinations is forthcoming very soon – possibly as early as today.

Although we are still waiting for guidance from DSS, our communities are already making plans for change. On Monday, the Executive Directors will be meeting to discuss their current plans and share best practices, which we know will benefit everyone.

We also continue to learn from our counterparts at Front Porch about how they are managing COVID-19, the vaccination process, and reopening – processes that sound very similar to our own. As Front Porch and Covia come together, we will also determine how we want to integrate our COVID-19 procedures, including this Task Force. With all of our vaccine clinics complete, this particular working group may take a different form – or may not be necessary. We will keep you informed about any changes.

Today, Covia Affordable Communities is hosting its Service Awards. Just over a year ago, Lytton Gardens, our community in Palo Alto, shared that one of its residents had contracted COVID-19, the first case at Covia. Due to the prevention measures implemented by residents and employees alike, Lytton Gardens was able to avoid an outbreak, setting a standard and example for all of us. They showed us that a case of COVID-19 was not a cause for hopelessness. Instead, they demonstrated that we could get through this if we worked together. Thank you to everyone for continuing to show this even a year later through your ongoing teamwork and cooperation.