



January 11, 2021

Dear IKF Residents and Staff Members:

As we celebrated together at our Executive Director Reception, we toasted to the New Year and inaugurated to *Brighter Days Ahead*. The sun shone brightly on December 23rd, 2020, when Skilled Nursing residents and staff received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine here at IKF. Tomorrow, our health care heroes will display their IKF pride when second doses are administered. As you know, coronavirus information changes quickly and our goal is to communicate news as it becomes available to us. Our COVID positivity rate for a rolling 7 days has jumped to 9.2%. The virus is now moving rapidly throughout Montgomery County.

Maryland statistics

- 139,506 Marylanders have received the first dose of the Covid-19 Vaccine
- 6,666 have received the second dose.

Those Marylanders who were eligible to receive the vaccination under Phase 1.A. include residents and staff of nursing homes. This group also participates in The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program. The LTC programs in the state of Maryland are assigned to either a Walgreens or CVS pharmacy to facilitate safe vaccinations. IKF's pharmacy partnership is with CVS.

Hot off the Press!

We just learned from LeadingAge Maryland that **the state formally activated Phase B of the Pharmacy Partnership Program.** This means that Assisted living, Independent living, and HUD 202 affordable senior residents and staff are now eligible to begin receiving the vaccine through CVS/Walgreens. All Marylanders over the age of 75 are included in the next vaccination group. Once a level is activated in the state, it takes two weeks for the first clinic to take place. To date, Maryland has distributed 270,150 doses of the vaccine and 76,916 doses have been administered.

On January 5th, Governor Hogan activated the Maryland National Guard to expedite inoculation administration. The Governor also initiated a rolling vaccine allocation model. This means that if a vaccine is not being utilized quickly and efficiently in one setting, it may be moved to others who need it.

Once we are alerted by our local health department the dates that group 1.B. is slated for vaccines, IKF will be prepared to facilitate the vaccination process. In the coming weeks, please look out for information that we will need from you. This will include:

- Intent to Receive Covid-19 Vaccination Form
- Insurance and Prescription information

A reminder that visitation in IL remains suspended. Select rooms are available to book small, in-person programs. Additionally, transportation services to medical appointments remain available with advanced scheduling. While the salon is currently closed due to unforeseen circumstances, we intend to re-open as soon as possible. Our goal is to keep programming and services open if we believe that it is safe to do so.

Additionally, the Maryland Department of Health recognizes IL residents in life planning communities as ‘congregate living.’ Should IKF experience 5 or more COVID positive resident cases within a 14-day period, these cases constitute an official “outbreak” and must be reported to the Department of Health. If an outbreak occurs, we will follow the Department’s guidance and suspend programming, accordingly.

Important Reiteration of CDC requirements

- Continue to wear your masks when outside of your apartment
- Always wear a mask when someone enters your apartment
- Stay at home when you are sick
- Wash your hands frequently and remain six feet apart.

The IKF staff truly believes that 2021 will be a progressive year and we look forward to rejoicing in *Brighter Days Ahead*. Protecting your wellbeing remains our highest priority. Please contact the IKF hotline at 240-499-0477, or email IKFhotline@Inglesideonline.org if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Michelle F. Kraus

Executive Director

Kate Kavitski

Independent Living Administrator