September 20, 2021

Dear Residents and Employees,

There continue to be no cases of COVID-19 in any resident at this time. The positive employee and contracted individual we reported on last week continue to do well and will complete quarantine this Friday. All individuals who were considered close contacts have had two negative tests and are now off quarantine. We have identified a new non-healthcare employee who has tested positive. That individual is fully vaccinated, doing well and is currently on quarantine at home.

Waverly Heights will continue to monitor the booster approval process and are ready to administer third shots (boosters) at Waverly Heights through our partnership with Eric's Pharmacy. We will communicate a date of an on-campus booster clinic as soon as the FDA/CDC make their final recommendations, which are expected very soon. As a reminder, only the Pfizer vaccine is currently being reviewed for a third shot. For those who received Moderna or Johnson & Johnson, the booster shot is not being recommended at this time.

On the reverse side of this letter is a update from McKnight's Senior Living Publication on where the FDA and CDC stand with their recommendations for boosters.

The Montgomery County Positivity rate as of Sunday, September 12th was 5.7%. Please continue to be vigilant at wearing a mask properly, maintaining social distance and frequently wash hands. Again, we strongly recommend that you only visit with fully vaccinated individuals until the positivity rate in the outside community begins to decline.

We truly thank you for your ongoing cooperation in helping to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Garvin
President & CEO

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BOOSTER UPDATE FROM MCKNIGHT'S SENIOR LIVING ARTICLE:

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel Friday afternoon voted against recommending the approval of booster doses of a COVID-19 vaccine for the general public, saying it needed more data. ***But the group unanimously approved a second, narrower recommendation for booster shots for older adults and individuals at high risk for severe disease, including healthcare workers.***

The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met Friday to review an emergency use authorization application from Pfizer and BionNTech for a third dose of its COVID-19 vaccine. The application sought to administer a booster dose at least six months after the second shot for people aged 16 or more years.

Although the advisory panel voted 16-2 against approving a booster shot for the general population, ***the group unanimously approved a third dose for those 65 and older and for individuals at high risk of severe disease. A poll of members showed unanimous support for including "healthcare workers or others at high risk for occupational exposure" in the emergency use authorization for a booster dose.***

The FDA does not have to accept the VRBPAC panel's recommendations and still must weigh in on authorizing booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine. If the FDA approves the boosters, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, scheduled to meet Wednesday and Thursday, then will refine the recommendation on who should receive the shots.

The FDA released briefing documents ahead of Friday's meeting indicating that the current vaccine still adequately protects against the virus. A CDC study released Friday found that the Moderna vaccine was more effective than the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines several months after vaccination but that all three were still highly effective at preventing hospitalization.