



Dear Staff, Residents and Families of Palisade Gardens and James Club:

Vaccinations are now being offered to healthcare workers across Canada with plans to vaccinate all Canadians by the end of September 2021. Because the Palisade Gardens and James Club community is highly vulnerable to the virus, we wanted to share information to ensure everyone is well informed about why experts are strongly recommending that everyone who can be vaccinated do so.

Important for everyone to understand at the onset is that while the COVID-19 vaccines have been developed as quickly as possible, the responsible processes and procedures have all been adhered to. Safety is priority number one for every government, including our Canadian government, and our community should feel confident knowing that the vaccines have been tested exhaustively in many thousands of people, with clinical trials that are even larger and more diverse than those we have used for vaccines in the past.

While there are many reasons to get vaccinated, the primary reason is that vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Wearing masks, social distancing and practicing proper hygiene help reduce the chance of being exposed to the virus, but these measures are not enough. The vaccines available today have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19, they will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.

Important to note:

- **Getting vaccinated does not automatically mean that you couldn't potentially pass COVID-19 on to someone else.** Everyone must continue practicing all protection measures following their vaccination until public health officials say otherwise;
- As with any vaccination, **everyone will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the vaccination** and if you are sick your shot will be postponed;
- **The vaccine poses no risk to those who have been previously infected;**
- **It's important for anyone suffering from an autoimmune disease, severe allergies or blood clotting disorders to talk to their doctor about their situation before getting vaccinated,** though it is likely they will still be eligible as the vaccines contain only genetic material – nothing live.

For detailed information on how the vaccines work, please visit the [Centers for Disease Prevention and Control](#).

For the COVID-19 vaccinations to be effective in ending the pandemic, 60-70 per cent of the population will need to be immunized. This means if you can be vaccinated, we strongly recommend that you do. Beyond protecting ourselves directly, taking the vaccine is an expression of empathy. It's about considering those friends, family members and neighbours, and even those you don't know who are compromised and unable to be vaccinated themselves. It's about considering those people who have lost their jobs, unable to pay rent and put food on the table, and the sick people who have been forced to put their illnesses on hold to accommodate COVID-19 patients. There are many reasons to take the vaccination beyond simply protecting yourself.

We strongly recommend that everyone in our community who can be vaccinated do so and invite you to contact us at any time should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Mercier, Director of Operation, Retirement Life Communities Group of Companies, and
Micki McLean, General Manager, Palisade Gardens and James Club Retirement Residences