

January 15, 2021

Good afternoon,

We are starting 2021 off with some exciting news! The first round of COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to clients and staff at 5 of our residential homes, signaling the beginning of the end of the pandemic. While we still have a long way to go, PLUS is very excited to have partnered with Walgreens to begin getting these vaccines to clients and staff, based on the roll-out schedule for congregate care facilities identified by the State of New Hampshire. Walgreens has created a schedule to visit our staffed residential locations with a pharmacist and a pharmacy technician and has assured us that they have appropriate supplies and equipment to maintain safety of both the staff and clients at each location. A member of The PLUS Company nursing staff will also be on site to handle any issues our clients or staff may encounter. The PLUS Company is not mandating that staff receive the vaccine however we are encouraging staff to obtain it as it is the single best precautionary measure available in the fight against Covid-19.

As the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts roll out their vaccine plans, PLUS will be monitoring very closely to determine when specific groups of staff, clients, and providers are able to obtain their vaccinations. The State of New Hampshire has just updated their plan for Phase 1B of the roll out. Those now included in this phase are:

- People 65 years of age or older
- Medically vulnerable people who have at least two conditions that place them at higher risk of developing serious symptoms
- Family caregivers of children under age 16 who are medically vulnerable
- Residents and staff of residential facilities for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- Corrections officers and staff working on correctional facilities
- First responders and health workers who have not already been vaccinated

Starting January 22, residents who are 65 and up can go to <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov/> to register for an appointment. For those who qualify as medically vulnerable, you should contact your doctor prior to obtaining an appointment. It is important to note that you follow the steps outlined on the website to receive your or your family member's vaccination, as The PLUS Company is not currently designated as a site for distribution of the vaccine. PLUS will be working with our local public health networks and hospitals, as we move forward with Phase 1B to assist in the coordination of vaccinations for staff and clients. We will do our best to continue to provide you with information, but please reach out to your doctor with any additional questions on obtaining vaccinations. In Massachusetts, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-timeline-phase-overview> for the latest updates in that state.

PLUS was fortunate to hold a very well-received workshop on vaccines for our clients led by Dr. Lisa Scheib, which explained exactly what vaccines are and how they work to our clients. Many of our clients reached out after the session to express gratitude, saying the presentation eased their fears about receiving the vaccine. Some even expressed excitement at the prospect of receiving the shot and are looking forward to becoming fully vaccinated.

I hope we can all take heart in this good news, while remembering not to let our guard down. The number of people infected with COVID-19 has skyrocketed in recent weeks, and we will continue on with our current safety and health measures until this virus is under control. This includes the wearing of masks at all times and following all guidelines

outlined by the state and the CDC. We encourage you to stay in communication with us if you are being tested and awaiting results, if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, or if you have received a positive COVID-19 test. Please remember that only by working together can we keep everyone safe.

A special “thank you” to all of our staff and providers who worked hard to make the holidays special for our clients. You can view some pictures from the celebrations on our Facebook page, as well as take a look at some of the classes, and workshops we’ve been holding. If you have fun photos of clients to share on our Facebook page, we would love to post them. Simply email them with a short description to jcusato@pluscompany.org.

Happy New Year,



Kim Shottes
Executive Director

