

December 18, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Sienna Care Communities,

The COVID-19 vaccination program began in Ontario on December 14 with clinics in Toronto and Ottawa, and in BC on December 15 with the BC Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, present as the first vaccine was administered. A handful of long-term care homes were selected to participate in the launch of phase one of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, and we were so pleased that five Sienna care communities located in the Toronto area and in BC were asked to provide volunteer team members.



Carlo Magno, Nurse Manager at Norfinch Care Community, Robyn Volger, Activation Aide at Cheltenham Care Community and A. Ankita, Physio Therapist Assistant at Cheltenham Care Community were among the first team members to receive the vaccine.

In an emotional day for all involved, we witnessed those who have tirelessly battled COVID-19 for nearly a year, make an important decision to further protect the health and safety of residents, team members and all Canadians. We are thrilled to wrap up this unprecedented year with such optimism and look forward to further rollout of the vaccine!

Where to find more information

We know you have many questions about the vaccine – how it works, who gets it first ([ON](#), [BC](#)) and how it impacts access to your loved ones in long-term care and retirement. While we do not have all the answers right now, new information regarding the vaccines is coming in quickly and we will do our best to keep you informed on the latest developments. We have created a dedicated [COVID-19 Vaccine Response](#) page on our website with videos, linked resources and FAQs, and will update it frequently as we receive further advice and direction.

Essential caregiver vaccinations

With further doses of the vaccine expected in Canada before the end of December and as a prioritized sector in seniors' living, we are asking essential caregivers to consider whether you would volunteer to be among the first to be vaccinated. We don't know exactly when this group will be added to the current line-up of vaccine recipients, but we want to be prepared when it happens. We encourage you to read more about the vaccine and who can receive it ([ON](#), [BC](#)), as well as guidance on how the vaccines work and what to expect ([ON](#), [BC](#)). We will share information on how to volunteer as soon as it is available, and in the meantime suggest you contact the Executive Director at your loved one's care community to provide your contact information.

We look forward to the day when we can welcome friends and family back into our residences, but must wait on direction from our provincial governments. For the foreseeable future, we must all stay vigilant: wash our hands, wear PPE and maintain physical distancing. Your support and adherence to these protocols is very important, and for that we thank you.