



January 12, 2021

Dear Jubilee Community,

In just the last few days, we have taken a huge leap forward in the fight against the coronavirus. Jubilee staff have begun to be vaccinated! The risk to the people we support, and to our dedicated staff, will be reduced even sooner than we anticipated.

Jubilee was selected late last week by the county to begin receiving vaccines as a licensed health care provider in the 1A priority group of the Maryland vaccine plan. **We took quick action and nearly half of our staff have already received their first dose of the vaccine.** We expect more of our staff to be vaccinated in the coming days and weeks ahead at county vaccination sites. We continue to advocate that all disability service providers and the people they support be vaccinated as soon as possible.

The current guidance we have from the state is that people receiving Jubilee services will be vaccinated during phase 1B of the state plan. Governor Hogan announced last week that Phase 1B will likely begin at the end of January. These vaccines will likely be administered by CVS or Walgreens at Jubilee's office in Kensington or at people's homes. In addition to the CVS/Walgreens program, Jubilee will pursue any other opportunities that arise through state and county programs to vaccinate the people we support as soon as possible. The Phase 1B vaccines will be for all the people we support, and any staff who have not yet been vaccinated. **We will reach out to you with the vaccination dates as soon as we receive information that the vaccine doses are available to us.**

Every person who receives a vaccine needs to complete a consent form. Jubilee is pre-filling these forms with information on file. **If you are a guardian for a person we support, you will need to sign on behalf of your loved one.** Jubilee will contact you in the coming weeks to ask you to sign the form.

We want everyone to get vaccinated. We want you to have confidence that you are doing the right thing for yourself, your family, and your community. We need as many people as possible to get vaccinated if we are going to beat this dangerous virus. **You cannot get the virus from the vaccine.**

Please contact your personal physician if you have any questions regarding vaccination and the personal health status of you or your loved one. We have created a Frequently Asked Questions document for you. Dr. Michael Greenberg is volunteering as a resource for our community as well, and he met with our staff in December. If your questions are not answered in the FAQ, please send your questions to [covid@jubileemd.org](mailto:covid@jubileemd.org) and we will work to get you confidential answers.



On a personal note, I got vaccinated and my only side effect was a sore arm, similar to receiving the flu vaccine. It was an emotional moment. By getting vaccinated I took action to protect the Jubilee community, my family and myself. If you have any questions or concerns, please do reach out.

Finally, even as the vaccine brings new protection to our community, it is critical that we maintain our other precautions. The vaccine does not give its full benefit until about two weeks after the second dose. Even then, it is still possible to be infected with COVID and to be a carrier. Because of this, Jubilee's precautions will stay in place until we are confident it is safe to make changes.

Dawn is breaking, and thanks to the vaccine, there are brighter days ahead for us all.

With gratitude,

Steve Keener

Executive Director