

**Good Samaritan Rehab and Nursing Center
4021 Cadillac St.
New Orleans, LA 70122
504.246.7900**

July 29, 2022

To Our Residents and Family Members:

Please accept this letter as a notification regarding the status of COVID 19 at Good Samaritan Rehab and Nursing Center and an advisement that we will now place updates on our facility website: goodsamaritanrehabandnursing.com and not mail individual letters to the primary person of a resident. By doing this all families and significant others can easily look at the website and receive a timely update.

For years 2020 and 2021 we have had 35 confirmed resident cases of COVID. Starting this year in 2022 we have had 39 resident cases of COVID.

For years 2020 and 2021 we had 53 employee cases of COVID. Starting this year in 2022 we have had 39 cases. Each employee was sent home if suspected and were not allowed to return to work until they achieved the parameters of CDC requirements to work.

We are actively testing residents and staff for COVID and are monitoring residents and staff for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. We continue to be very proactive with the observation of all residents and employees with following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Resident safety continues to be our top priority and we stay in close communication with local and state health officials.

We have restarted indoor visitation You do not need to make an appointment. The hours of visits are from 10 AM and 7 PM. (If these times are a problem and additional accommodations need to be made, please advise the administrator for an exception that will accommodate your special needs.) You may go to the resident's room. You must follow these directives to prevent a possible COVID transmission.

-When you enter the nursing facility, go to the nursing station to sign in, have your temperature taken, and answer questions regarding any COVID symptoms. (If you have been around an active COVID case or have COVID symptoms please do NOT come.)

-You will be asked to wear a mask and clean your hands before going to the resident's room. If it is a semiprivate room, you must stay on your resident's side of the room and not have contact with the other resident or use the restroom. The goal is to reduce any exposure to the fellow roommate. You may not go to any other areas of the building.

-We encourage each visitor to be vaccinated in order to reduce the potential of getting the COVID illness.

-On March 30, 2022 Louisiana Department of Health issued a Health Alert Network Message 22-12: FDA authorizes second booster shot for Americans over 50 and those 12 and up with moderate to severe immunosuppression. Attached is the notification. If the resident here or the family member/representative, wishes the resident to receive the vaccine, please advise the Director of Nurses or the Administrator of this request so it can be arranged.

We need your help in battling COVID-19. Please visit the Centers of Disease Control and prevention (CDC) website to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community.

We know that you may have questions and we encourage you to contact the facility.

Sincerely

Connie Kurz, Administrator

mRNA booster dose for Johnson & Johnson also approved

In addition, based on newly published data, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna)

Information to support authorization of a second COVID-19 booster dose

The FDA has determined the known and potential benefits of a second COVID-19 vaccine booster dose outweigh the known and potential risks in these populations. The evidence considered for authorization of a second booster dose following primary vaccination and a first booster dose included safety and immune response information provided to the agency as well as additional information on effectiveness submitted by the companies.

The guidance in this HAN is effective immediately.

Related Information

- CDC statement on FDA's authorization of second booster doses: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0328-covid-19-boosters.html>
- FDA Fact Sheets and other documents for Pfizer vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/comirnaty-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>
- FDA Fact Sheets and other documents for Moderna vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/spikevax-and-moderna-covid-19-vaccine>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Overview: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>
- Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained>

LDH reminds providers to report possible vaccine-related adverse events to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html> or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Any possible severe adverse events (those resulting in hospitalization, death, or persistent disability) should be immediately reported to the Office Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease/Epidemiology Hotline at 1-800-256-2748.

If you have vaccine related questions, please contact la.immunization@la.gov

Any member of the public with questions on COVID-19 testing, therapeutics, vaccines, or other related issues can call the Louisiana COVID Community Hotline at 855-453-0774.