



SILVERADO BELMONT HILLS COVID-19 UPDATE

January 13, 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

I want to share, in anticipation of an article in the San Mateo Daily Journal, we have sent them following message:

Our hearts go out to families who have lost a loved one to COVID-19, those dealing with someone who is battling through it, and those worried about how it will affect their family. We are humbled by all of our associates, our nurses and caregivers' professionalism in showing compassion to our residents and their families as they work tirelessly to serve, every day, during this pandemic. At this time, we have lost one resident directly from complications related to COVID-19. Unfortunately, we also had one resident pass nearing the end of their battle with dementia and receiving hospice services before testing positive for COVID. It is essential to know that our residents typically choose to spend the remainder of their life with us following the natural course of a dementia diagnosis. We mourn the loss, as each of our residents become family to our associates.

Residential memory care communities like ours provide essential healthcare services. Memory Care providers who serve this population where 100% of the residents have Alzheimer's disease and other memory impairments are caring for residents who cannot understand they are at risk of this virus. They cannot leave the community to get the COVID-19 vaccine in a public clinic. This unique risk compelled the CDC to recommend residents in long term care facilities to be the first to receive the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination. We have provided the documentation required to have our residents and associates to receive this vaccine at our community from CVS Pharmacy in the Tier 1A distributions as part of the Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program. We still have not received our clinic dates from CVS, even though San Mateo County Public Health has opened a drive-through vaccine clinic at the county fairgrounds.

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/drive-thru-covid-19-vaccination-clinic-opens-in-san-mateo-county/2442702/>

We at this moment have twelve residents with COVID-19. Three of these residents have no symptoms. We have two associates out on a leave of absence (LOA) due to COVID-19. We have had a handful of residents recover from COVID-19 who are back in their neighborhoods. We have thankfully had associates recover and come back to work too.

Please be assured I prefer not to provide numbers related to positive COVID-19 because it can change momentarily. If your loved one tests positive for COVID-19 we will contact you.



I know this is hard on you and it is hard on all of my associates. Please know we are doing the best we can, in extremely challenging circumstances.

Most of our Welcome Center, which is our Bay neighborhood, has become our red zone where our residents who have tested positive are staying. We also have a portion of our Bay neighborhood dedicated to non-COVID residents. We have attempted as much as possible to have dedicated associates working in this area to help in decreasing the spread of the virus.

We continue to follow San Mateo County Public Health guidelines and are testing all residents and associates on a weekly basis. We will continue to test weekly and once we have two rounds of zero positive cases we will consider resuming some kind of family visits.

We request your patience as all our associates are hands on with our residents to care for their needs. This includes our engagement staff, directors, and maintenance moving beds at a moment's notice and of course our nurses and caregivers.

If a resident has tested positive for the COVID virus, we will discuss with their responsible party, if the timing is appropriate for the resident to receive the vaccination.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me directly.

With Love and Gratitude,

Joan Newman
Administrator

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Starting Monday, San Mateo County began offering a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic for eligible health care workers and vulnerable residents.

The clinic -- which uses the Moderna vaccine -- opened at 1 p.m. at the San Mateo County Event Center at 1346 Saratoga Drive in San Mateo. By that time, the line was building and eventually would snake through the event center's large parking lot and onto surface streets.

Vaccinations are available only to workers and residents eligible under Phase 1A of the state's vaccine distribution guidelines. That phase includes the following groups: those at risk of COVID-19 through work at health care or long-term care settings (including non-clinical staff), and residents of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and long-term care settings for older or vulnerable individuals.

San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors president David Canepa announced the mass vaccination clinic in a statement Monday.

"This is the best news I've heard in a long time and shows that the dark days of winter will be over soon," Canepa said.

People interested in being vaccinated at the drive-thru site must complete an online form to confirm eligibility. Registration and appointment information will be available once eligibility is confirmed.

The clinic was open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

There are approximately 38,000 health care workers and 12,000 long-term care residents in the county. Bill Silverfarb, policy adviser to Canepa, said approximately 12,000 people have been vaccinated from the county's vaccine allocation of 22,000 so far. That does not include workers within medical systems like Kaiser Permanente or Sutter Health, which have separate vaccine allocations.

Silverfarb said the clinic is expected to continue as long as there are vaccine doses available. The second vaccination dose will be available in four weeks via a similar clinic.

People in Phase 1A who have health plans through Kaiser Permanente may obtain the vaccine through their primary care provider at Kaiser.

For more information on Phase 1A vaccine eligibility, people can visit the [San Mateo County health web page](#).