

Hello Everyone,

Please read this message and expect a separate email from our Director of Nursing, Brittany George, within the next day regarding COVID vaccination sign-up at UCP. She will offer an FAQ and her request for your commitment to being vaccinated at UCP in the very near future. Also, and more importantly, if you do not sign up for a vaccination with UCP now, it may be several months before you will have another opportunity to be vaccinated outside of UCP. Brittany will require your response within 24 hours.

Thanks to all who participated in yesterday's townhall call regarding the COVID vaccine. We are grateful to Dr. Jones with whom we contract to care for our group home clients who shared his knowledge and expertise with honesty and full transparency of all the vaccine's risks and benefits.

We fully understand and respect that the decision to get the vaccine is a very personal one. At the same time and as an agency that depends upon you to maintain the health of all those we serve, we must all do our part to educate and inform ourselves and to debunk many of the myths that are attached to the vaccine. There is understandably much mistrust right now in our government, our healthcare system, and many in power who may have let us down in some ways. I ask that we all do our best to be open to information and to make the right decision that is best for each of us and all of those around us...family, friends, and those we serve at UCP.

Most decisions we make in life are based upon our individual assessments of risk versus benefit. Credible research indicates this vaccine is **95% effective in fighting a killer virus**. The experts indicate that once 60-80% of the population is vaccinated, life can begin to return to a more normal state. There is much misinformation surrounding the risks of the vaccine. For instance, **we cannot get COVID from the vaccination** – it does not contain the virus. Another comment floating around is that there is “nano technology” in the virus that allows the government to track one's location. This is also not true. There are nano particles in the vaccine which means “small” particles – nothing having to do with technology. Also of note, there is no pork or fetal tissue in the vaccine. These are just a few examples of the confusion social media can cause.

I offer a link to a 15-minute webinar hosted by the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals: [Webinar: The Facts About Covid-19 Vaccines for Direct Support Professionals | NADSP](#). Please take the time to listen.

Thank you for continuing to read all our communications! **Please be on the lookout for Brittany's message to respond to immediately.** Feel free to offer your comments and questions to Brittany or any member of the leadership team.

Trish and the Leadership Team