

February 1, 2021

Hi Everyone,

I hope you had a nice weekend. I am happy to report that 60 more vaccinations were administered last Friday for a total of 114 staff and clients! At UCP, we are very fortunate to have a well-coordinated and executed vaccination plan in partnership with CVS while others may not have access. Thank you to Brittany and the nursing team for their incredible efforts! All of us who have received the first shot will now look forward to getting our second in February.

Last week, one individual at one of our offsite locations tested positive for COVID-19 necessitating quarantine for those directly affected. As you know, we have also closed rooms and paused programming throughout the past six months when clients and employees have tested positive. If we want to ensure that we are able to continue to serve clients in a safe and healthy manner, we must take advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated. The vaccines are being shown to be highly effective and the vast majority of participants are experiencing only minor side-effects, if any.

Understandably, some of you have concerns:

- mistrust of the medical community and/or the government
- your fear that the development of the vaccine was rushed
- you've heard of vaccine ingredients or effects of it that scare you
- you worry that the shot will alter your genes or give you the disease

85% of the population needs to be vaccinated to establish "herd-immunity" and allow us to return to our normal lives. Availability of the vaccine remains limited and it may take several months to vaccinate the majority of the population. If you are at all open to being vaccinated, **now is the time to act**. Otherwise, you may be waiting several months before you can protect yourself from this killing virus.

Please know that I understand that this may be a difficult choice. However, if you are on the fence, please do everything you can to learn more about this vaccine! If you have not yet been vaccinated due to any of these concerns, now is the time to call your physician or UCP's Registered Nurse, Brittany George, so that they can answer your questions and help explain all the misinformation that is out there on social media and elsewhere.

Deadline to register for vaccines offered at UCP: this Wednesday, Feb. 3rd at 5:00 p.m. You can follow the link to register: <https://bit.ly/3rYXE6l>. Call Brittany George at (216) 299-6995 or write her at bgeorge@ucpcleveland.org with specific questions.

Thank you for maintaining your health and the health of those around you at home and at work.

Sincerely,

Trish and the Leadership Team