



## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 5, 2021

To: **eliseo** Residents, Family Members and Employees

From: R Kevin McFeely, President & CEO *RKM*

Re: COVID Update

Sadly, we have been notified another employee has tested positive for COVID. As per our protocol, the employee has been notified, is not on site and will return after 10 days have passed and no new symptoms have presented themselves. We are continuing the no admissions and no visitations protocols as directed by the local health jurisdiction until further notice.

After a great deal of discussion and deliberation based on the continuing increase in COVID cases, **eliseo** is making COVID vaccines mandatory for all employees, including contracted facility employees. Beginning September 1, 2021, each employee will have eight weeks to start the vaccination process to be fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021. The continued increase in COVID cases has clearly indicated this pandemic is not going away anytime soon. Both time and science has shown us the vaccines are safe and effective. We will comply with Federal and State requirements for medical and religious exemptions.

This decision is supported by numerous medical organizations. The American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of American Medical Colleges, and National Association for Home Care and Hospice have endorsed mandating COVID vaccination for health care workers. Last year, **eliseo** lost 19 residents to COVID, all of which were unvaccinated. The safety and well-being of our residents and employees is paramount. Resources will be made available to our



employees in the event there are questions regarding this policy and the vaccine itself. **eliseo** will continue to provide the vaccines to employees.

I appreciate the emotion surrounding the issue of mandatory vaccines. As mentioned previously, this decision involved a lot of deliberation, where benefits were compared against the risks. Based on our work and those we serve, the benefits far outweigh the risks and put quite simply, this is the right thing to do for everyone associated with **eliseo**.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Thank you.