



A National Lutheran Community

**To:** All residents, families and team members  
**From:** Executive Director, Kyle Hreben  
**Date:** September 3, 2021  
**Subject:** Community-wide Path Forward Update

## Memorandum

Earlier this week, National Lutheran Communities & Services' (NLCS) President and CEO, Cyndi Walters and Chief Operating Officer, Regina Figueroa, announced that all NLCS communities, including The Village at Rockville will require mandatory vaccination for all team members. This request is a necessary step in the natural progression of guarding against COVID-19 and keeping other residents and team members safe. That said, all NLCS team members must receive their first COVID-19 vaccine by September 30 and be fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021. To abide by federal employment regulations, medical and religious exemptions may be requested. Continued practices of testing and N95 masking will be required for those who receive exemptions.

In late August, Governor Hogan announced that all nursing home workers must be vaccinated by September 1 or continue weekly testing. To be compliant with this mandate, we will continue weekly testing while implementing the COVID-19 vaccine mandate according to the dates set forth by NLCS.

Cyndi shared the following: "Dr. Ravi Passi, medical director at The Village at Rockville, recently shared his thoughts with us on video about the importance of the vaccine. [Here's a link to the recording](#). Although you may not know Dr. Passi personally, his message is very thorough and strongly represents the approach that NLCS is taking to the COVID-19 vaccine and the virus." We invite you to take a look at this recording as you consider this necessary step to mandate vaccination.

As you know, The Village at Rockville already has a high vaccination rate among team members with 87% already vaccinated, and any new team member must have the vaccine two weeks prior to joining our community. As we give team members opportunities to comply with the mandate, we are offering a vaccination clinic on September 15, during which residents, team members and family members will have the opportunity to receive the Moderna vaccine. Please contact Erin Wheeler if you wish to get vaccinated at [ewheeler@thevillageatrockville.org](mailto:ewheeler@thevillageatrockville.org) or via phone at 301-354-8423.

While we did have one team member test positive for COVID-19 (per our communication yesterday), the remaining team members and residents tested negative this week. Thank you in advance for your diligence as we all continue to mask, follow proper hand hygiene and social distancing guidelines. While we know the path we have been traveling as been full of stops and starts, a laser-like focus on the end goal among all of us will deliver us to our desired destination safely.

For more information on our Path Forward go to [www.thevillageatrockville.org/pathforward](http://www.thevillageatrockville.org/pathforward). To sign up for an outdoor visit with your loved one in skilled nursing/long-term care, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/familyvisits>.