

# Goodwin House Public Statement | Dec. 31, 2020

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## Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

*Below, please read a letter that we distributed via email to families and friends of Goodwin House Residents on December 31, 2020.*

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As we reach the end of this unusual year, we have reason to celebrate--we held our first vaccine clinics this week! This brings us a sense of great hope and promise for the new year. As we head into 2021, our President & CEO Rob Liebreich wrote a letter to the Goodwin House Family. You will find it at the end of this public statement. We hope you'll enjoy reading his reflections on 2020 and hopes for the coming year.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out Begins at Goodwin House!

We are delighted to end the year on a positive note. As we shared in this week's Resident Update, we held the first COVID-19 vaccine clinics at Goodwin House Alexandria (GHA) and Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads (GHBC) this week. We administered the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine to 378 residents and staff at GHA on Tuesday and 331 residents and staff at GHBC on Wednesday.

In keeping with Virginia Department of Health (VDH) protocols, residents and staff in the health care centers, memory support and assisted living were first to get the vaccine. In addition, residents with spouses in higher levels of living were vaccinated. Thanks to the availability of extra doses, we were also able to vaccinate a small number of Independent (Residential) Living residents and additional staff at GHA and a small number of additional staff at GHBC.

Residents and staff shared in excitement and enthusiasm throughout both busy days of the vaccine clinics. [Enjoy this video](#) with action shots taken as the days unfolded.

## We Must Remain Diligent to Keep Everyone Safe & Healthy

While the vaccines move us forward on the path back to normal, we must all continue to follow our infection precaution protocols. We cannot relax our precautions for two reasons:

- 1) The vaccine is given in two doses: the first dose offers a 50% efficacy rate at protecting someone from contracting COVID-19; the second dose provides a 95% efficacy rate.
- 2) It is still unclear if someone can spread the virus even after getting the vaccine, and we need to reach herd immunity in order to feel confident that we can relax our protocols.

*We are committed to keeping you, residents and staff healthy.  
Please join us in our efforts to keep our community infection-free.*



This week, even as we rejoiced in the arrival of the vaccines, we emphasized to residents and staff the importance of continuing to maintain social distance, wear masks and practice good hand hygiene. We might be able to see the clearing, but we are not out of the woods just yet.

## **Webinar with Dementia Advocate Teepa Snow**

Teepa Snow is a well-known advocate and educator for those living with dementia. She's offering Goodwin House a special webinar on January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will join us! Teepa will present "The Effects of Social Isolation on Those Living with Dementia", a seminar that will equip caregivers with strategies to recognize and reduce the effects of social isolation on those living with dementia.

## **Counting Down to a New Year!**

We're ready to ring in the New Year at Goodwin House! Tonight, Dining Services will include sparkling wine or sparkling cider with the New Year's Eve dinner so that residents can raise a glass and make a toast. In a special video that will air on our in-house TV channels, Chef Brian Patterson offers cooking tips for black-eyed peas and collard greens, as well as the proper (and not so proper) ways to open champagne and other types of sparkling wines. [Watch his video](#), which includes special greetings from staff.

## **Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021**

Well, here we are at the end of 2020. This is a year that we all will remember for many years to come. While the pandemic has kept us apart physically, we have never felt closer to our extended Goodwin House Family. One final time for this year, we want to thank you again for the many ways in which you have supported us. May you and all those you love have a very safe and healthy New Year!

## **Letter from President & CEO Rob Liebreich**

Dear Goodwin House Family,

As we say goodbye to 2020 and its many challenges and look forward to 2021, we all see the coming year as more hopeful.

Earlier this week, someone asked if I ever thought I would be in this moment. "No" I said, "I don't think any of us predicted this situation, though I am so very grateful to be a part of the Goodwin House Family at this time."

Goodwin House for generations has held strong to its mission to support, honor and uplift the lives of older adults and those who care for them, while at the same time seeking innovation, and doing both with a solid financial foundation.

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As challenging as 2020 has shown itself to be, including the loss of some beloved members of our family, it also showed who we are as an organization. We have shown our love and care for each other's safety by wearing masks, giving up social activities and sacrificing time with family and friends. We also have shown tremendous generosity within our Goodwin House Family to the Goodwin House Foundation and Holiday Funds. We will need this culture of generosity to continue as so many around us face times of struggle.

Following the footsteps of residents and Goodwin House at Home members who give so richly of their time and talents to the broader community around us, Goodwin House Incorporated was more intentional this year in reaching into our greater community. We helped organizations around us obtain personal protective equipment, access to testing, provided an operational playbook for COVID-19 and provided guidance through health care practitioners like Dr. Maggie Gloria, Goodwin House Hospice and Palliative Care Medical Director. We will continue to support the broader community, and plan to distribute version two of our COVID-19 Playbook next week.

The hope we have in 2021 gained momentum this week with the vaccine clinics at GHA on December 29 and at GHBC on 30. At these first vaccine clinics, we were able to vaccinate about 40% of our organization with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. We understand that thousands of people came together to make the vaccine and its distribution a reality, and we are filled with gratitude.

As we welcome 2021, let us also welcome a renewed commitment to hand washing, wearing our masks and doing what we need to do to win the battle with COVID-19. Trends across Northern Virginia indicate that we will see bigger COVID-19 peaks through April. In addition, we still need to vaccinate an additional 60% of our Goodwin House Family. Even once vaccinated, we need to be mindful that good infection control habits will be a requirement.

Though the journey in front of us continues, we know we are stronger together as we find our path to success day by day.

Wishing you all more peace and joy in the days ahead,

Rob



Rob Liebreich  
President & CEO

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