



**January 6, 2021**

Dear Revera Residents and Family Members,

It's finally 2021, and like you I am very glad to turn the page on 2020. I am heartened that this new year comes with new hope in the form of vaccines that will help us all to fight back against the virus that has shaken our world. It is a seismic shift to go from the identification of a new virus and the discovery, development and availability of vaccines to fight it in less than one year. This truly remarkable achievement by the world's scientists means that, while it's too early to let our guard down, there is reason for optimism.

Here in Canada, we now have two vaccines approved for use, with more potentially on the way. And provincial decisions about who gets these vaccines and when is being driven by a shared priority to keep our most vulnerable populations safe. That means that long term care residents and workers, as well as other seniors, are amongst the first in line to roll up their sleeves across the country, in keeping with the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on immunization.

The vaccine effort is already underway. The two-dose Pfizer vaccine, which is about 95% effective against COVID-19 symptoms, has delicate storage and transportation requirements. It can't be stored at the site level, so while most residents aren't receiving this one quite yet, we hope this will change soon. In the meantime, health authorities have set up centralized locations in hospitals where our employees are able to get their shots, and Revera is offering paid time off to help support this important process.

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Health Canada approved a second two-dose vaccine by Moderna that is about as effective as Pfizer's. With easier to manage storage and transport requirements, the Moderna vaccine will be administered onsite for our residents in both long term care and retirement. In fact, I was thrilled to be on-hand on January 2<sup>nd</sup> as the very first resident at a Revera retirement residence – Donway Place in Don Mills, Ontario - received her first dose of the Moderna vaccine against COVID-19. It was such a joyful moment - one I won't soon forget.

And yet, while vaccines are powerful new tools to help stop the spread of COVID-19, it's far too soon to be complacent. The vaccine roll-out is happening in phases, which means immunity will occur in the larger population gradually. And you could still get sick and even pass along the virus to others, because once you get the vaccine, it takes some time to build up your own immunity. You must continue to take all of the precautions to protect yourself and those around you.



We are also hearing about new variants of the virus from the United Kingdom and now South Africa. These new variants appear to spread more easily, and laboratory investigations are underway to determine how effective the vaccines will be against them. It remains to be seen how much of an impact these new strains will have here in Canada, but it reinforces how important it is for all of us to continue to do the right things: maintain physical distance, wear a mask, wash your hands and practice good respiratory hygiene when not wearing a mask.

We've made it through the heartbreak, the uncertainty, and the upheaval that the pandemic brought in 2020. 2021 is about hope – that vaccines will help put an end to COVID-19, and that we will be able to resume our 'normal' way of life. This hope will be realized if we all continue to be vigilant, to do everything to protect those around us, and to not give up the fight, no matter what new COVID-19 curveballs are thrown at us.

Welcome, 2021. We've been waiting a long time for you.

Wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rhonda Collins  
Chief Medical Officer, Revera Inc.