



August 26, 2021

Dear Family Member,

As you may already know, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) notified us last week that they will be requiring all nursing home and hospital employees to be COVID vaccinated as of September 27, 2021. Although I am very supportive of the vaccine, I worry that some of our staff may choose to leave their job over the mandate. The healthcare industry as a whole finds itself currently in a staffing crisis. Most healthcare organization I know of, cannot afford to lose any more staff. While we await further direction from DOH, our Medical Director will be holding educational sessions with those staff to educate them on the safety of the vaccine and answer questions they have. In recent weeks, we have had several employees become vaccinated and are confident that this is a trend we will continue to see.

As of today, I am grateful I do not have any positive resident or employee COVID cases to report. Although not required, I would like to encourage all in-person visitors to be COVID tested prior to coming to the ECF. Testing is available at Oneida Health Quick Care, WellNow Urgent Care and local Pharmacies such as Walgreen's.

As always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Fortunato Scerbo III

Administrator