



December 16, 2020

Dear Families and Guardians:

We are pleased to announce that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (vaccine). Other manufacturers have or will submit a request to the FDA for the same authorization of their vaccine. We anticipate some of the SSLCs may receive their first allocation of the vaccine in the coming weeks. We do not know how much of the vaccine we will receive, exactly when, or the type but as we receive enough to begin administering the vaccine to your loved ones, we will provide more detailed information, including known benefits and risks based on the type we receive.

The interdisciplinary teams will begin meeting to determine if the vaccine is a safe option for your loved one. If so, we will be educating you and/or your loved one on the vaccine and offering opportunities for any questions to be thoroughly answered. Consent forms will be made available soon. The vaccine will not be mandatory, but we will be strongly encouraging all who can safely receive it to do so.

This has been such a difficult year, with COVID-19 disrupting activities, relationships, and lives in ways we never could have imagined. The vaccine is something we all have been waiting for the last eight months and we are excited that SSLC staff and residents will be among the first to receive the vaccine in Texas. If you have any questions, please contact your facility director.

Sincerely,

Scott Schalchlin, Associate Commissioner
State Supported Living Centers