

Speaker 1: A big first step in getting local seniors vaccinated, Caleo Bay nursing home finds its first vaccination clinic this morning one of the first places in our valley to partner with the CDC for vaccine distribution. Our Nico Payne was there.

Nico Payne: An emotional day for everyone at Caleo Bay Assisted Living and Memory Care Center in La Quinta, the first vaccination clinic for all residents and staff. Family members of those living at the facility are grateful. They say it's been tough trying to explain the severity of the pandemic to their [00:00:30] loved ones who struggle with memory issues.

Tony Napolitan: People that have memory issues, like my wife, they don't understand why I can't come in and visit. So this is exciting.

Nico Payne: Tony says that if his wife's memory was operating at full capacity, she would be the one he turns to for advice.

Tony Napolitan: My wife is actually an ex operating room nurse, so she would know all this and she'll even say, "Well, what do you mean there's a virus? Don't people wash their hands and do all the things they're supposed to be doing?" I go, "This one's a little different, it's called a pandemic."

Nico Payne: [00:01:00] Caleo Bay has been working directly with CVS Pharmacy to secure their doses, and despite a troubling rollout in the county, they say their process has been smooth.

Heather Myers: We were one of the first communities to sign up, so we were pretty positive that we would get them. We were ready probably three weeks ago for this to happen.

Nico Payne: Residents were happy to get their first shot and first layer of protection against the virus.

Speaker 5: I feel very glad to get it. This stuff here is even more essential.

Nico Payne: But [00:01:30] family members cautiously optimistic, saying it's been a long road to get here.

Tony Napolitan: When vaccines started becoming available early December, we were all with bated breath waiting, and then it's taken a while for the State of California to get to this level.

Nico Payne: Nico Payne, NBC Palm Springs.