

Speaker 1: WCPO 9 News reporter, Josh Bazan, explains residents and families are hopeful this will help get things back to normal there soon.

Penny Coffey: Our residents are among the most vulnerable.

Josh Bazan: Central Parke Assisted Living and Memory Care in Mason has 66 beds for seniors living with memory disorders. The center has taken careful steps to protect its residents who are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID 19.

Penny Coffey: Right now our residents' family members are not allowed to [00:00:30] hug their loved ones. They can't hold their hand.

Josh Bazan: At first, families couldn't come inside at all. Now they're able to visit loved ones at Central Parke following social distancing and other safety protocols. Staff are getting creative to help residents enjoy themselves, but the pandemic still poses a lot of challenges.

Penny Coffey: It's been very difficult. It's been very difficult. Not only is it hard for the residents, it's very hard for the family members and staff just can't take place of the loved ones.

Josh Bazan: Central Parke will be [00:01:00] one of the first senior living communities locally to get the COVID-19 vaccine. It is already enrolled in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vaccine Program, and residents and staff will be able to get the vaccine for free when it's available. The hope is the vaccine program will get Central Parke One step closer to having more normal visits for family members and residents, which is vital to their mental health and vitality.

Penny Coffey: Social interaction and contact is very important for our seniors with memory [00:01:30] care. They're used to a routine and they're used to their loved ones coming in multiple times a day.

Josh Bazan: Central Parke says its partnership with CVS and the Centers for Disease Control will have it ready to roll out a vaccine as soon as one is approved. Reporting in Mason, Josh Bazan, WCPO 9 News.