

Speaker 1: While the vaccine may be weeks away, one local retirement community already has plans to make sure its residents have access to the vaccine.

Speaker 2: The Hammond Glen Retirement Community in Sandy Springs will offer free vaccines to its residents once one is made available. Fox host Janice Yu spoke with one resident who says it's the best news she's heard in months.

Lila Blake: I was used to having Sunday lunches with my grandchildren and my daughter, and not [00:00:30] getting to see them every week has been hard on me.

Janice Yu: It's been a difficult several months for Lila Blake, who's been self isolating. It's a choice she made at the start of the pandemic to keep herself safe.

Lila Blake: I've been doing Zoom calls with my family, and I have several friends who are doing the same thing. And we talk every day.

Janice Yu: Blake lives at the Hammond Glen Retirement Community in Sandy Springs, and she says she got some welcoming news on Thursday. The community announced it will be offering free COVID-19 vaccines [00:01:00] to all residents once they become available, among the first senior-living companies to do so.

Pam Poucher: I think probably some of the greatest benefits of this program for our community is it will add an extra layer of protection for our residents and allow us to connect families together again and bring a sense of normalcy to the community.

Janice Yu: A sense of normalcy that could soon be a reality. Companies Pfizer and Moderna both announced this week their COVID 19 [00:01:30] vaccines were just about 95% effective. Pfizer has submitted a request to the FDA for emergency-use authorization, and that approval could come in the following weeks. Blake says she's anxiously waiting for that day and is thankful her community's making sure she has easy access when the time comes.

Lila Blake: Knowing that they've got this in place, it makes it a no-brainer. And that's the best news I've had since February.

Janice Yu: In Sandy Springs, Janice Yu, Fox 5 News.