

Diane Lee: Maple Brook Terrace in Malden is one of the first to enroll in the CDC program. 7News's Melanie Palmer has the details.

Melanie Palmer: Retirement communities like this, along with nursing homes, anticipating approval of a COVID-19 vaccine. They're working on a plan now for when that day does come. This is a place Susie Smith has called home for the last couple of months.

Susie Smith: It has just been a breath of fresh air for me because at least I can see people.

Melanie Palmer: She spent the first part of the [00:00:30] pandemic at home, living a much more isolated and lonely life. She hasn't seen her family since last Christmas, but now she says there's hope on the horizon.

Susie Smith: I will be first in line to take it when it's available. I promise you that.

Melanie Palmer: She's talking about a COVID-19 vaccine, one that the executive director there tells us they're on the list to get when it does become available.

Carol Babbitt: We are one of the first properties, one of the first companies to sign up for this vaccination program. So when it's available, our residents [00:01:00] and staff will have access to that vaccine.

Dr. Bindu Mayi: We would roll this out to people who need it the most.

Melanie Palmer: This very topic is where Dr. Bindu Mayi's passion lies. She knows a lot about the research that has gone into the two COVID-19 vaccines that are showing promising results.

Dr. Bindu Mayi: The good news about last week, the good news on the vaccine front, was with the Pfizer vaccine, which shows about 90% efficacy. The Moderna vaccine, which was the best news this morning, is [00:01:30] 94.5% effective.

Melanie Palmer: The next step, Dr. Mayi tells us, FDA approval for emergency use.

Dr. Bindu Mayi: I imagine by spring or early spring, all of us should also have access to it.

Melanie Palmer: Meanwhile, Smith is holding out hope she will be able to see her family again soon. If not for the holidays, a short time after.

Susie Smith: At least my circle will widen, and I can get out to see my family. I hoped [00:02:00] for Christmas. I don't know that it's going to happen.

Melanie Palmer: Fortunately, here at Maple Brook Terrace, they've had zero cases of COVID-19 so far. They say that's because their focus is prevention, and that's where this vaccine comes into play. In Malden, Melanie Palmer, 7News.

