

Rebecca Butcher: Well, the day has finally arrived where Quail Ridge Assisted Living residents can roll up their sleeves and take the COVID-19 vaccine shot.

Leslie O'Kelley: She's got a great sense of humor, very funny. Loves to socialize with people.

Rebecca Butcher: 86 year old Dorothy Choate is a resident at Quail Ridge Assisted Living and Memory Care. She moved in last May. Her daughter, Leslie O'Kelley says her outgoing personality has made quarantining all the more difficult. But residents were finally able to receive the [00:00:30] COVID-19 vaccine this morning.

Leslie O'Kelley: I cannot tell you the relief. Besides the fact that this will help shelter them from hopefully, illness in the future. But I think you'll give a sense of relief and some security to the people who take care of them.

Rebecca Butcher: The injection took seconds, but the planning took weeks.

Speaker 3: It has got to be a tremendous ray of hope when you look at number one, they are in fact the most likely to get serious illness and death from this infection. And secondly, [00:01:00] so many of our senior citizens have just been frankly locked up for so many months now.

Rebecca Butcher: Quail Ridge Executive Director Dawn Blankenship says Walgreens administered the vaccine shots.

Dawn Blankenshi...: The second vaccine is middle of February, and then there's actually a third day scheduled for those who wanted to wait and see.

Rebecca Butcher: Blankenship says now that the vaccines are available to the care facility, the possibility of in-person visits are now open, giving residents like Mrs. Choate the chance to see their relatives.

Leslie O'Kelley: [00:01:30] Yeah, it will be nice to be able to have a chance to be able to go in and just spend a little time, even if the visits are short.

Rebecca Butcher: In Bartlett, Rebecca Butcher, Local 24 News.