

Speaker 1: Live from The Valley's News Channel. This is Channel 5 News This Weekend.

Elma Wilson: Save yourself. Save yourself. Get that shot.

Tony Velasquez ...: Love her. Advice from one of 90 residents at afar Assisted Living Facility who got her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine today. Good evening. And thanks for joining us. I'm Tony Velasquez Jr. First at 10, we're taking a look at potentially life-saving efforts. Channel 5's John Paul Barajas kicks off tonight's coverage.

John Paul Baraj...: [00:00:30] Just a few seconds. A small pinch.

Speaker 5: It was good.

John Paul Baraj...: And a whole lot of protection. Gardens at Brook Ridge in Pharr had their first CVS vaccination clinic today. For residents living here, getting the vaccine is a no-brainer.

Elma Wilson: Save yourself. Save yourself, get that shot. Sure. Of course. It's going to help you.

John Paul Baraj...: Moments after our talk, Elma Wilson [00:01:00] got her first injection of Pfizer's vaccine. Something her youngest daughter says is a blessing. Their families dealt with a handful of cases already and lost a few loved ones to the virus.

Speaker 6: This is a days and answer to prayer because she is in the population that is at risk and she's tough. But COVID does not discriminate.

John Paul Baraj...: Elma is tough and don't dare call her old. She still has plenty of pep in her step and a [00:01:30] birthday in the months to come.

Elma Wilson: 96-years-old. I don't think it's a long time.

John Paul Baraj...: Still young?

Elma Wilson: Yes. I feel ... I don't feel 100. And I'll soon be 100.

John Paul Baraj...: Right now, there's about 40 staff members and 90 residents from the Assisted Living in the Memory Care facility being vaccinated or in the process of being vaccinated by a CVS team. And in three weeks that CVS team will be back to administer [00:02:00] the second round of the dose.

CEO of the facility, Luis Cerrano, says about 95% of residents got vaccinated. Some of the staff was a little more on the fence about the idea. So he came down from Austin to lead by example. He signed up all of his facilities for clinics with CVS and was thrilled to see this day finally come.

Luis Cerrano: Relief. Relief knowing that the seniors in my communities will be protected.

John Paul Baraj...: But during the pandemic, we've all seen some dark days. Cerrano's facilities where no exception having to try and control [00:02:30] and minimize outbreaks.

Luis Cerrano: We set up a Quarantine Zone to care for those residents that were positive. But we got through it with minimal losses.

John Paul Baraj...: Some of those losses being friends of Elma's. But Cerrano is hopeful today will be a turning point for everyone at the Gardens. In Pharr, John Paul Barajas, Channel 5 News This Weekend.