

Speaker 1: ... nursing home residents. One local senior community was among the very first to enroll in the CDC's National COVID Vaccine Program. And once it's approved, people living there could be among the first to get vaccinated. We're talking about The Haven at North Hills Senior Residence. And tonight I'm joined by the Executive Director, Jennifer Gross, and Dr. Rob Potter, a family member of a Haven resident. Thank you both for taking some time tonight.

Jennifer Gross: Thank you for having us.

Speaker 1: So the website for this facility says [00:00:30] that you currently have no COVID cases in the facility. How is that possible?

Jennifer Gross: Lots of teamwork, lots of love and caring for our residents and Sunshine Retirement Community, our company is very, very supportive and along with the help of Allegheny Health Department as well.

Speaker 1: Why do you think it's so important to have acted as fast as you did to try to get involved in this CDC National COVID Vaccine Program?

Jennifer Gross: [00:01:00] Well, Sunshine Retirement has always put the residents and the staff first and this is just one more thing during this pandemic that they choose to put us closer to the top of the list to make sure that we get our families back in and more hugs and more, more time to make some more memories.

Speaker 1: Dr. Potter, can you tell us a little bit about your mother-in-law and what you thought when you first heard this news about their involvement in the vaccine program?

Dr. Rob Potter: [00:01:30] Well, my mother-in-law's been at The Haven for about a year, it's been a very good experience for her and for us. And I was very excited and my wife was very excited when we heard that The Haven at North Hills was in the first group of people that would be able to get the vaccine. I know of course, a lot of the other residents at the facility as well and so we've gotten to know lot of the people there. And I [00:02:00] think it's great that the Sunshine Company has managed to get them at the top of list. They are people that are very susceptible, the elderly population [inaudible 00:02:12] some underlying medical problems. So it's great that they are top of the list.

Speaker 1: Jennifer, how difficult is it, day in and day out, trying to keep both your residents and your staff members safe and keep them healthy?

Jennifer Gross: We do lots of screening prior to the staff coming in. We have [00:02:30] lots of PPE if needed. We make sure that our life enrichment programs are still going on with social distancing and masking. And we keep our families very, very much informed.

Speaker 1: Dr. Potter, do you think that they are going to decide to prioritize nursing home residents like your mother-in-law?

Dr. Rob Potter: I think that they are and I think that they should, because as I said, those are the people that are most likely to suffer dire consequences from the virus.

Speaker 1: [00:03:00] And before we go Jennifer, how does the partnership with CVS Pharmacy work?

Jennifer Gross: Well, Sunshine Retirement has teamed up with them and it's going to be from start to finish. So once we get the green light, they will give The Haven at North Hills a call, they will schedule the time to arrive, they will come out for the dose and we'll be on our way welcoming families and have a big reunion.

Speaker 1: Thank you both for joining me. Definitely hope for a lot [00:03:30] of people that not only work in these facilities, but also for their loved ones, appreciate your time tonight.

Jennifer Gross: Thank you.

Dr. Rob Potter: Thank you.