



Corporate Office:
8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110
Albany, NY 12211
(518) 235-1888
www.caredesignny.org

December 15, 2020

Dear Members and Families,

New York State (NYS) has received 177,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved under its emergency use authorization (EUA). Individuals with Developmental and/or Intellectual Disabilities (I/DD) living in certified residences, supported IRAs and Family Care Homes with their direct support professionals, have been prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1A of the State's distribution plan in two groups as follows:

- **Group 1:** Individuals living in the 414 OPWDD residences with many individuals over the age of 65 will receive the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine through a pharmacy distribution—CVS or Walgreens. The second dose to complete the Pfizer vaccination will follow three weeks later. *Note: logistical details are in development and agencies who operate these residences will be notified.*
- **Group 2:** A COVID vaccine developed by Moderna is awaiting FDA EUA approval and 346,000 doses are expected to arrive in NYS the week of December 21. These will contemporaneously be administered. The second dose to complete the Moderna vaccination will then follow four weeks later.

The vaccine distribution plan for the approximately 70,000 individuals with I/DD living in New York State communities has not been communicated with Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs). Please continue your advocacy to ensure they will be designated to receive the vaccine in a prioritized phase!

Since the COVID-19 vaccines were approved by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization, a higher level of informed consent will be required prior to vaccination. Here is the information we were given:

- A universal and standardized consent form is in development and will accompany the vaccine's FDA Fact Sheet.
- The State is also developing a consent process for individuals who do not have the capacity to consent and who do not have a family member or legal guardian to sign under the OPWDD 633.11 medical treatment regulation.

- Informed consent for individuals living in State and voluntary operated homes will be the responsibility of the residential provider.
- Care Design NY will provide the consent process for its members residing in family care or living in the community.

We will continue to keep you updated on the State's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan for the individuals that Care Design NY supports. Thank you for your advocacy and continuing to take the necessary safety precautions—wear a mask, wash your hands, and socially distance!

Sincerely,



James Moran
CEO