



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

Aug. 31, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

- **FLU SHOTS WILL BE MANDATORY**

For the 2020-21 flu season, Marklund will make the influenza vaccination mandatory for all staff and residents.

Requiring an annual flu vaccine demonstrates our commitment to protect the safety and health of our residents, many of whom already have compromised immune systems, as well as our staff.

Flu vaccination for health care personnel has been recommended by health facilities for years, yet many people choose not to get vaccinated. So, while the nation still faces the COVID-19 pandemic, and specific treatments and vaccinations are not yet available, we felt this is one way we could work to keep our Marklund family healthy. Staff who receive the vaccination not only help control the spread of the flu virus to others on our campuses but to their loved ones in their own homes as well.

Flu vaccinations will be offered to staff free of charge during flu clinics held at each campus this September and October. (Announcements as to specific dates and times will be made in the *Connections* employee newsletter.)

The only exemptions to this mandatory policy include:

- ◆ Medical contraindication to receiving the vaccine
- ◆ Religious belief that prohibits the vaccination
- ◆ Received flu shot elsewhere
- ◆ Personal

Making the flu vaccine mandatory is a step that has also been taken by many of the health care organizations throughout the nation. We hope that families who plan on visiting their loved ones during the upcoming flu season will consider getting vaccinated as well for the same reason—to keep our residents and staff as healthy and safe as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the new influenza vaccination policy, please feel free to contact me at gfonger@marklund.org or at 630-593-5476.

Regards,

GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO