

Hi, Commissioners:

We have been attempting to speak with the Health Department regarding COVID 19 vaccinations for HACM residents. On Friday evening last week, we received a call from Dr. Nick Tomaro from the Health Department who is helping to coordinate the vaccination program at the Wisconsin Center.

As you know, the first day for seniors 65 and older to be vaccinated was yesterday (2/1) and he had some open slots for those days and wanted to arrange for some of HACM's residents to be first in line for the vaccination on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

In discussion with Dr. Tomaro, we agreed that it made sense to have our first focus on Lapham Park, where we have a significant number of seniors (113) that are 65 and older. The issue of transportation was brought up since a number of our residents are in wheelchairs and scooters, and the Health Department decided to free up a bus that they were using at Miller Park testing site to shuttle residents from Lapham Park to the Wisconsin Center.

On Saturday, we prepared a flyer and the Lapham Park Resident Organization distributed it to all households at Lapham. Yesterday and today, we had two staff assist in going door-to-door to outreach to the 113 residents that were 65 and older and to help coordinate the bus trips at least once an hour to the Wisconsin Center as long as there was demand.

We were hoping for participation of 80 to 100 residents. In the end, about 47 residents made the trip and received the first vaccination. In three weeks, we will arrange a similar trip to assist them in receiving their second shot.

A number of the remaining 66 residents that decided against it either preferred to get the vaccination directly from their personal doctor, or said that they did not want to get the vaccination. As you know, for a significant number in the minority community, the history of mistreatment and racial inequities (as well as information on social media) have resulted in a distrust of the vaccine at this point. Hopefully, as more people receive the vaccination, word of mouth and hearing from other trusted sources such as their personal doctor and community leaders will help to convince them of the benefits of the vaccine.

Dr. Tomaro also said that he is very interested in doing on-site vaccination clinics in HACM developments as well, but that at this point in time they do not have enough vaccine to be able to do onsite vaccinations and are focusing on the Wisconsin Center scheduling. He said that once there is sufficient vaccine, he would like to start scheduling them, and will keep us posted. We believe that on-site vaccination will also result in higher numbers of vaccinations as there is not the inconvenience of a bus trip in the snow and cold.

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