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## MEMORANDUM

**To: Residents and Family**  
**From: Brian Robbins, Vice President & COO**  
**Date: November 30, 2021**  
**Re: Federal Vaccine Requirement for Private Duty Caregivers**

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Since August's announcement regarding the federal vaccine requirement for senior living communities, we have seen a continued increase in our associate vaccination rate. Our associates have a deadline of December 5 to receive the first shot of the vaccine or receive a valid exemption, and we are on track to meet the deadline.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid expanded the vaccine requirement beyond Buckner associates. **The vaccine requirement extends to the following:**

- **Private Duty Caregivers (those employed by residents/family)**
- **Volunteers**
- **Third-Party Essential Care Providers**
- **Licensed Practitioners**
- **Vendors (if their job responsibilities require them to enter the community)**

For Buckner to maintain compliance with the federal requirement, evidence of vaccination will be essential to enter any Buckner community and care level for all essential caregivers, volunteers, care providers and practitioners, and vendors.

Private duty caregivers are included under CMS's general category of "Individuals who provide care, treatment, or other services for the facility and/or its clients, under contract or by other arrangement." If you contract with a private duty caregiver, please share this memo with them or their employer.

**Evidence of the first dose of a two-dose vaccine or a single dose of the one-dose vaccine will be required as of December 5, 2021, while evidence of full vaccination will be required as of January 4, 2022.**

Compliance with the federal vaccine requirement does not extend to essential caregivers and general guests, however we do strongly encourage any guest of a Buckner senior living community to consider getting vaccinated to protect residents.

To read CMS's vaccination rules, visit [CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov). To read an FAQ developed by CMS outlining who the vaccination requirement applies to, visit [Tinyurl.com/CMSVaccineFAQ](https://tinyurl.com/CMSVaccineFAQ).

Previous exposure to the COVID-19 virus and/or the presence of antibodies is not a valid substitute for the vaccine. Valid medical or religious exemptions as defined by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission may be presented to the community for consideration.

COVID-19 vaccines are free in the U.S. and are readily available at most pharmacies and physician offices.

You may call 855-754-3338 with questions at any time. Also, please continue to visit the BRS website ([www.BucknerRetirement.org/COVID19](https://www.BucknerRetirement.org/COVID19)) for a daily tracker of any PUIs or positive cases our community may have.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

***Please share this information with family members.***