

Dear UCP Seguin Staff, Foster Parents, Families, and Friends,

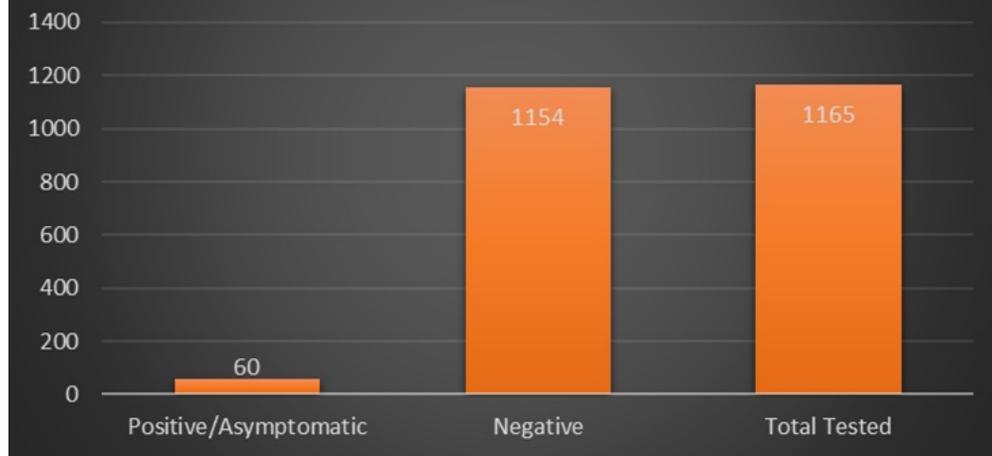
Happy New Year to each of you! We hope that in spite of the pandemic, you enjoyed a safe, healthy, and restful holiday season! We are writing to you today with a COVID-19 update. It doesn't seem possible, but just over two months have passed since our last one and that is because even though we experienced a bit of an increase in positive test results and exposures between mid-November and mid-January, our environments remained stable and our staffing support continued with little to no disruption.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the preliminary rolling positivity rate in Illinois is 8.6%. If you are continuing to watch the numbers, you probably have seen how this number has fluctuated for the past two months. According to public health experts, we may see yet another surge in positive cases over the next couple of weeks due to exposures that occurred during holiday travel and gatherings. Important to note is that the positivity rate in Illinois has remained under 12% for the last seven days. This is a good sign and if we continue on this path, we could see some safety restrictions being partially lifted in some regions in the state (<https://wgntv.com/news/these-illinois-regions-could-see-covid-restrictions-relaxed-friday-as-state-reports-6642-cases-117-deaths/>).

Unfortunately, though, in spite of the lower positivity rate in Illinois, people are still becoming infected with COVID-19 in large numbers and too many are dying. So we are not out of the woods yet.

UCP Seguin has consistently supported the position that testing is imperative to virus containment. You may remember that back in July, we made bi-weekly testing mandatory for all employees who are working directly with anyone else including individuals receiving services, co-workers, and members of the community. Since July, we have provided numerous ongoing COVID-19 testing clinics onsite for employees and foster care providers to be tested at no charge and we continue to hold onsite clinics several times a week to ensure that everyone has access to testing on a continuous basis. Illustrative of this effort, to date, we have provided onsite testing to an amazing total of 1,165 employees (see chart below)!

January 12, 2021 COVID-19 Employee Testing Results



According to Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, more than 50% of COVID-19 spread occurs as a result of asymptomatic carriers. Because of UCP Seguin’s employee testing schedule requirement, several staff members showing zero symptoms were alerted to positive COVID results and were able to take the steps necessary to keep others safe, including quarantining, isolating, and retesting before returning to work. Cumulatively, the positivity rate amongst our staff is 5.2%. We will continue to offer onsite testing to employees and foster parents regularly for the foreseeable future. We truly believe that the testing practice has kept our staff and the people served by UCP Seguin safe and we are so grateful that we were able to incorporate this enormously important mitigation measure into our COVID-19 response protocols fairly early-on in the crisis.

It has been a difficult season for all of us as we did our best to safely navigate the holidays, with many of us foregoing our usual traditions this year. We are all fatigued and it’s frustrating because it seems that in spite of all we have done to get the virus under control, the numbers are still high, the virus is still here after almost a year, our lives are still not “normal”. But, there is FINALLY light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel! We are sure it is no news to any of you that emergency use authorization was granted to Pfizer and Moderna by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last month, allowing for distribution of their versions of tested vaccines. This is a real breakthrough and is imperative to eradication of this virus. A comparison of the two vaccinations is in the chart below, just as an FYI.

	<i>Pfizer vaccine</i>	<i>Moderna vaccine</i>
<i>Age of target population</i>	16 years +	18 years +
<i>Efficacy</i>	95%	94.6%
<i>Number of total doses</i>	2	2
<i>Timeframe between doses</i>	21 days	28 days
<i>Side effects</i>	*Reactogenic	*Reactogenic

Long term care employees and residents of those facilities are two of the groups included in vaccine distribution category 1a, which is the first phase of distribution. Each phase specifically outlines eligibility for the vaccine based on certain criteria for the purpose of ensuring that distribution occurs in priority order, with those who are most vulnerable are in receipt of the vaccination at the top of the list. Phase 1a includes UCP Seguin staff as well as individuals receiving CILA

Mild *reactogenic* side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines have been observed in some, with most of those happening after the second dose. Reactogenic side effects

services. **As of today, thanks to our friends at the Oak Park Public Health Department, we are excited to report that 25 UCP Seguin employees and 3 people served have already been vaccinated with the first dose!** This group received the Moderna vaccine, and it is important to understand that both options have been determined to be safe and effective and so it is possible that some of our staff and people that we serve might receive Pfizer's version of the vaccine. Walgreen's is UCP Seguin's distribution partner and we expect to hear from them in the coming days to begin discussing the process for setting up onsite vaccination clinics. All employees will be eligible for the vaccine. All of the people we serve who reside in CILA homes will be eligible to be vaccinated. Be assured that families and guardians will be contacted and consent requested and secured prior to any of your loved ones being vaccinated. If at any time you have any questions about the process, please contact your loved one's case manager.

include minor discomfort such as pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, and fever. While it's easy to assume that experiencing side effects is an indication that the vaccine itself has made us sick, this is not the case! In fact, side effects are not a sign that the vaccine is unsafe but are actually a sign of our immune systems kicking into gear! So while uncomfortable, they are not bad or dangerous.

We did it!!

THE FIRST 4 AT UCP SEGUIN TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE.



Ben Hollins

Ben felt it was important to get the vaccine because:

"I felt it was my duty to protect my wife, family and all the guys I work with at 1111 (ICILA HOME). I didn't even know he had given me the vaccine, I asked him was he finished. No pain at all."



Phyllis Stewart

Phyllis felt it was important to get the vaccine because:

"I work with vulnerable clients at UCP Seguin. I also want to show the African American community that the vaccine is safe. It's important to show the world that it's okay. I have great-grandchildren, and I want to see them grow up."



Peggy Wesley

Peggy felt it was important to get the vaccine because:

"My husband is sick, and I don't want to bring anything home to him. I also have health issues."



Renee Thompson

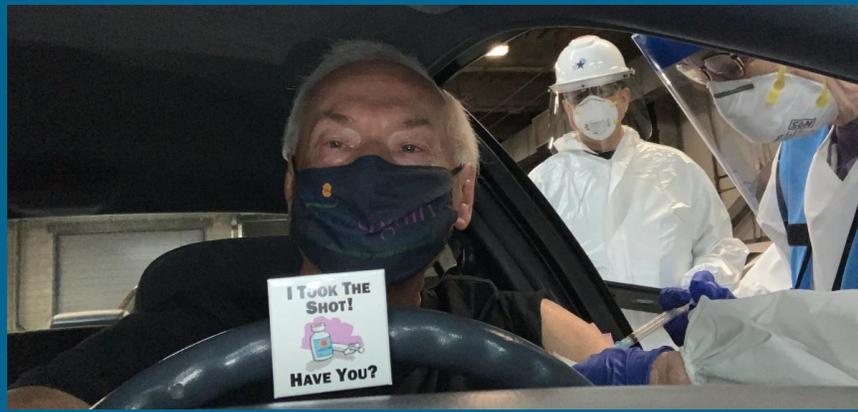
Renee felt it was important to get the vaccine because:

"It was offered to me and I decided it was the best decision for my family and the people I work with. The process was painless and well organized"

I TOOK THE SHOT! HAVE YOU?



Just this month, UCP Seguin launched a vaccination campaign for employees that includes a combination of education and incentives. We have also distributed a short survey in an attempt to determine what percentage of our employees are interested in taking the vaccination now, later, or never and are in the process of collecting those results. Be assured that there will be no "vaccine shaming" at UCP Seguin. We are cognizant of the fact that any one of us may be hesitant to take the vaccination for any variety of reasons, cultural history and personal experience with vaccinations notwithstanding. We have taken the approach of providing education and a supportive environment (including some fun incentives) and we feel confident that those who might be hesitant now will be open to receiving the vaccination after some time has passed and there is further evidence of its safety and efficacy. To add to the fun, we are even distributing pins to those who are vaccinated!



John Voit, President & CEO, sets the tone for UCP Seguin by taking the vaccine.

The safety of your loved ones, our staff, and humankind continues to be the central focus of everything that we do at UCP Seguin; it is our top priority.

As always, we extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support throughout the last ten months of this public health crisis.

To Brighter Days Ahead in 2021!

Be Well,

Michelle Sanders
VP of Organizational
Management
COVID-19 Task Force
Spokesperson

John Voit
President/CEO

Jim Haptonstahl
Executive Vice President

**Support the COVID-19 Emergency
Fund**



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