



Christopher S. Sintros  
President and Chief Executive Officer

***“The prize cannot be won without effort.” Latin Proverb  
Let’s achieve our goal of 90% vaccination and win; health, safety, and up to \$17,500 in raffle prizes!***

You and the team of Deaconess Caregivers have been heroic in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic. When our federal and state governments didn’t know how to protect for older adults, ***you*** stepped forward. ***You took care of the frail elderly who needed care.*** The sacrifices you have made have been phenomenal and because of that, you have kept our ***seniors*** safe, our ***staff*** safe and your ***families*** safe.

It is with ***gratitude*** and ***recognition*** of your efforts that you have the opportunity to be near the front of the line ***nationally*** to receive a vaccination. We will only get a limited opportunity to take advantage of this round of vaccinations.

We have done everything in our power this year to protect employees, volunteers, visitors, residents and the community from COVID-19 infection.

The CDC recognizes that healthcare personnel continue to be on the front line of the nation’s fight against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare personnel who get COVID-19 can also spread the virus to their patients seeking care for medical conditions that, in turn, increase their patients’ risk for severe COVID-19 illness. ***“Early vaccine access is critical to ensuring the health and safety of this essential healthcare workforce,*** protecting not only them but also their patients, communities, and the broader health of the country. Therefore, the ***CDC recommends*** that healthcare personnel likely to be exposed to or treat people with COVID-19 should be vaccinated against COVID-19.”

With this all in mind, ***we have the goal of achieving 90% staff vaccination*** in the first round of vaccinations. This goal takes into consideration that we have some staff members with very particular conditions that will not be able to take advantage of this vaccine. It also recognizes that the more team members who choose this vaccine, the safer each of us and our families will likely be as we enter the winter. ***I will take the vaccine as soon as possible.***

Not only do we know that Covid-19 has taken almost 300,000 lives, we know that many who have recovered from Covid-19 are continuing to have lingering health effects.

As a way of thanking you for taking time from your schedule to take the vaccine, we are offering ***\$100*** gift cards at the time of the first dose as well as raffle prizes totaling \$17,500. ***Please talk with your manager to see how you are eligible.***

We will have only 1 or 2 days when you are able to get the vaccine, so please give some thought to how we can support you in this process.

Please note that all of our PTO, Payroll and HR policies will revert back to pre-pandemic practices two weeks after the second vaccine doses are made available.