

'Part of the change'



The Residences at Park Place resident Charles Plumb gets his COVID-19 vaccine from CVS pharmacist Heather Arnold at the assisted living facility on Tuesday.

NORM CANNADA | THE JOURNAL

Assisted living residents, employees get first vaccine dose

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Kyle Hicks admitted there was “a little tension” as he got ready to receive the COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday morning at The Residences at Park Place.

“I wasn’t excited about taking the

vaccine at all, but I wanted to be a part of the change,” said Hicks, who is executive director of the assisted living community. “I want to see this thing go away — not just for our facility, but for other people’s facilities as well, because these are somebody’s mothers and fathers.”

Hicks was among the 46 residents,

nine employees and eight others who provide “direct care” to Park Place residents receiving their first dose of the vaccine. The shots were provided by pharmacists from CVS, one of the pharmacies working in a partnership with the state to get

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vaccines for people at assisted living centers. Those who got the first shot on Tuesday will get their final COVID vaccination on Feb. 16.

The process went well during the day, according to Hicks, who added the Moderna vaccine was used and no vials were wasted.

"I think it went like clockwork," he said.

After administering doses to those who came into the community living room to get the vaccine, the doses were administered room-to-room in the memory care unit.

"Our memory care residents, they don't wear masks, they don't wear face shields," Hicks said. "Those are the most vulnerable people in the whole building."

He said no problems were reported during the day, and those receiving vaccines said they didn't experience any pain or side effects.

"I didn't even know it was done," 83-year-old resident Eugene Marcom said. "I asked the doctor (about the shot), and the doctor said the best thing



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Marian Alexander, a resident at The Residences at Park Place, gets her COVID-19 shot from CVS pharmacist Heather Arnold at the assisted living facility on Tuesday.

"I'm glad I got it. It didn't hurt a bit. This girl is good," she said.

Charles Plumb, 96, was wearing a University of Michigan face mask when he received his dose. When asked why he decided to get the shot, Plumb said,

"They told me I needed it."

Park Place staff member Karen Arnold encouraged everyone to get vaccines when their opportunity comes.

"I think it's great that we got this here," she said.

CVS pharmacist Heather Alford has already been vaccinated and said getting

the vaccine is important.

"I just want everyone to do their part for our community and get their vaccine," she said. "That's what I want wholeheartedly. It's pretty painless."

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