

The COVID-19 Vaccine and You.

A Letter from Karla Radka, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced its recommendation that fully vaccinated individuals can now gather inside without wearing a face mask. After more than 14 months of restrictions, this is a major milestone on our path to returning to "normal." **However, more than 830,000 Florida seniors remain unvaccinated as of May 1, according to the Florida Division of Emergency Management.**

As the CDC continues to make changes to the guidelines for protecting ourselves and each other from exposure to COVID-19, it is more important than ever for our most vulnerable populations to get vaccinated. In fact, the CDC reports that fully vaccinated adults 65 and older are 94% less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19. Needless to say: The greatest step we can all take in caring for ourselves and for our loved ones is getting the vaccine.

Here, in Central Florida, as in the rest of the country, there are hesitations among all populations, largely driven by misinformation. At Senior Resource Alliance, we are working together with our nine provider agencies across Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Brevard counties to remain an active and accurate resource for our seniors, as well as their family members and caregivers. We are leading with empathy by listening to the concerns and reservations of those in need, providing resources for those who have questions, and facilitating the coordination of vaccine appointments when necessary.

Above all, my message to our seniors in Central Florida: **The vaccines are safe and effective.** But I understand that selecting which vaccine to get, and when and where to get it are big decisions. If you or a loved one have questions or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to Senior Resource Alliance by calling **(407) 514-1800** or emailing **info@sraflorida.org**.

As we continue to slowly progress back into pre-pandemic life, Senior Resource Alliance remains committed to ensuring our seniors are heard, cared for and equipped with the tools they need to maintain their independence. The COVID-19 vaccine is just one – albeit one of the most important – of these tools.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Radka".

Karla Radka
President & CEO, Senior Resource Alliance

