



Frank Russo &lt;frank-gsuite@farusso.com&gt;

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**Fw: [EXTERNAL] VOV19 Vaccinations**

1 message

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**Gene DiGiacomo** <digiacomio101@yahoo.com>  
To: Frank Russo <frank@farusso.com>

Thu, Dec 31, 2020 at 12:20 PM

Website, emails

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Begin forwarded message:

[On Thursday, December 31, 2020, 11:28 AM, Parauda, Martina <Martina.Parauda@va.gov> wrote:](#)

Hello Gene!

Let me provide an overview and then answer your specific question about the Staten Island Clinic.

We have been vaccinating Veterans. We follow the CDC and VA guidance for priorities. The residents at the St. Albans CLC were vaccinated as well as any inpatient at Brooklyn and Manhattan that is being discharged to a nursing home or group home setting. We also vaccinated any resident on 15 West at Brooklyn who wanted the vaccine and are doing the same for inpatient psychiatry at Manhattan. We are coordinating with the group homes for homeless Veterans to vaccinate them. Those who live in any group setting are most at risk and have a high priority.

We have also begun vaccinating hemodialysis patients at Brooklyn and Manhattan and will next be working with Veterans who are receiving chemotherapy. Next week we will begin to contact outpatients 75 and older who are most at risk due to the severity of their illness.

I know many are anxious to receive the vaccine and we are working hard to get Veterans vaccinated. I ask that any Veteran once given an appointment for the vaccine be sure to come for the appointment. We have the Pfizer vaccine and it is very effective but must be given within 6 hours of being thawed and put into the syringe. The pharmacy prepares the daily supply for each campus based on the scheduled appointments. Unlike the flu vaccine it cannot be stored in the refrigerator and offered to any Veteran who walks in. It is also a two dose vaccine so the Veteran will be given a follow-up appointment date which is 3 weeks after receiving the initial dose.

Because of how fragile the vaccine is and must be used quickly, for now we have vaccination centers at Manhattan, Brooklyn and St. Albans. The vaccine is not being given by the primary care provider but rather by staff specifically trained on the COVID vaccine. At Brooklyn it is in Pod A on the ground floor.

I spoke to my staff about the possibility of offering it at the Staten Island Clinic in the future since we have the pharmacist, Mark, at the Clinic. We are looking into whether it would be possible given the nature of the vaccine. For now I would urge Staten island Veterans to agree to an appointment at Brooklyn when contacted by scheduling staff. I do not want to delay the availability of the vaccine to any Veteran because of logistical issues. It's important to get Veterans vaccinated. I hope this answers your concern. Let me know if you or your members have any other questions.

Happy New Year!

Martina