POLICY:
All residents and employees who have no medical contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccine will be offered and encouraged to accept the vaccine, as it is made available to our community. The facility promotes the benefits associated with vaccination against COVID-19 and educates residents and employees regarding the nature of the vaccine, potential side effects and the benefits to the individual and society with vaccination. Administration of the vaccine is made in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and recommendations.

PURPOSE:
Vaccinating staff and residents will reduce the risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 within the community.

PROCEDURE:

1. As the vaccine is made available, employees and residents of the facility will be offered vaccination against COVID-19, unless medically contraindicated or if the resident / employee has already been immunized. The facility requires proof of immunization for those declining vaccination because they have already received the vaccine.

2. The Admissions Coordinator will review each resident’s immunization history prior to or at the time of admission and document whether the resident has had a COVID-19 vaccination and what vaccine was administered (if known). The vaccination will be recorded in each resident’s preventive health record.

3. Staff and residents may receive vaccinations that have been approved for emergency use (AEU) or vaccines that have received final FDA approval. Staff and residents will receive written and verbal information about the vaccine, including its effectiveness, composition, administration, and side effects.

4. Residents or employees that have documented, severe, life-threatening allergies to vaccines will not be vaccinated. Additionally, employees or residents with an ADA or religious exemption will not be
required to vaccinate. The physician will be contacted for any resident who has sensitivities to vaccines to make the determination as to whether the vaccine is appropriate for the resident.

5. Any resident or employee who is not feeling well, or who is experiencing an elevated temperature will be encouraged to delay vaccination until symptoms and/or fever resolves.

6. Residents or their legal representative will sign the Informed Consent for vaccination; if the vaccine is refused, the refusal and the reason given by the resident or legal representative for refusing the vaccine will be documented on the consent form and entered into the resident’s record.

7. **Staff that refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19 will be provided a fit-tested, N95 mask which they will be required to always wear when they are in the facility. Research has demonstrated that this level of respiratory protection reduces the risk of transmission from an infected person to another individual. Wearing the mask may be extended to one week, or whenever the mask gets soiled, damp or otherwise compromised, before a new one is re-issued. If supply permits, a new N-95 may be issued more frequently to un-vaccinated staff.**

   a. **Vaccinated staff will wear respiratory protection appropriate to the situation; when there are no active cases of COVID in the population, vaccinated staff may wear treatment or “loop” masks in the facility.**

8. For those who do receive vaccination, the administration of the vaccine will be documented on the individual’s medical record, as well as on the facility’s Vaccination Log. The information documented to the log will minimally include: the date of vaccination, the brand of vaccine given, the lot number, the name of person administering and the site of the injection. The recipient will also be issued a card recording their vaccination.

9. Vaccinated residents and staff will still be required to adhere to mandated testing as scheduled by the Virginia Department of Health.

10. Residents and employees who wish to receive their vaccination from their personal physician or an alternate provider may do so but must provide documentation of the vaccination to the facility for recording.

11. Storage and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine will be done in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control guidelines. The facility does not retain any vaccine that requires storage at ultralow temperatures.

12. Each facility on campus (Home, Gardens, and Parkside) will maintain surveillance data on COVID-19 vaccine coverage and reported rates of COVID infection among residents and staff. The organization reports all outbreaks to the local health department and the licensing agencies of the various programs.