

## Message to the Duncaster Community

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President and CEO

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As we begin a new month I wanted to share some good news with everyone. Two of our residents who had previously tested positive for COVID-19, and were being cared for in our isolation unit, were recently re-tested and tested negative. What great news for our residents, their families and the staff who cared for them! It was with great joy that we were able to discharge them from our isolation unit and return them to their rooms. I was told by staff that as one of these residents was being wheeled back to her room she raised her fist in celebration and said "I beat the virus". What a great story and what a great tribute to our caregivers! In addition, of the seven staff members who have tested positive, one has returned to work, three are coming back next week and the remaining three are expected to be back soon. What wonderful news for our outstanding staff!

Over the past ten days, we have had three unannounced surveys by the Connecticut Department of Public Health at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center-two for the nursing home and the other for assisted living (Dogwood neighborhood). The Department of Public Health is surveying all nursing homes and assisted living communities in the state, focusing on infection control processes related to COVID-19. Both surveys went extremely well. They were very pleased with the infection control procedures, our use of PPE and they noted that we are doing the right things to keep everyone safe. What a great tribute to the entire team at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center. Little victories in the ongoing battle with this insidious virus are certainly worth celebrating. With that said we also know we still have a significant battle ahead of us and we must remain vigilant to prevent any further spread. Dawn Staley, an American Basketball Hall of Famer player and coach once stated, "A lot of people notice when you succeed, but they don't see what it takes to get there." Our employees are all true heroes in our fight against this virus. I am so proud of the entire Duncaster team and inspired by their commitment to our residents and to each other.

To summarize where we are today, a total of twenty four Duncaster residents and eleven employees have been tested.

- **Assisted Living (Thistle Way/Talcott Notch)**-three residents tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. One has been hospitalized and the other two were transferred to private rooms at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center in our dedicated isolation neighborhood. One of the two has now tested negative and has been transferred to a room in the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center,
- **Assisted Living (Dogwood)**-one resident tested negative.
- **Caleb Hitchcock Health Center**-seventeen residents have been tested: thirteen tested negative and four tested positive. Of those four residents who tested positive; one passed; the other three were transferred to private rooms at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center in our dedicated isolation neighborhood. One of the three residents has now tested negative and was transferred to their room in the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center.
- **Independent Living**-three residents tested negative.
- **Employees**- a total of eleven employees have been tested: four employees tested negative and seven tested positive.
- **Pending**-There are no additional pending tests on campus.

Community brings out the best in Duncaster, our spirit is what unites us and I know better days are coming. Be safe, be well and be strong.