



Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

May 30, 2020

As I mentioned in last week's update testing is an important strategy in our effort to control and mitigate the virus on our campus. As you know, at the recommendation of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, we conducted a point prevalence testing survey of all our residents in the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center on May 17th. Thankfully, all our residents tested negative for the virus. At this time we are caring for only one COVID-19 positive resident in our isolation neighborhood at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center.

While our current situation quite favorable we cannot get complacent. Under the guidance and direction of our Medical Director, our clinical leadership, and in cooperation with Hartford HealthCare, we will continue with our campus-wide COVID-19 testing. The following are the key next steps in our process for testing residents.

Who

All Independent Living and Assisted Living (Talcott Notch/Thistle Way) residents will be tested on June 3rd.

What

All Independent Living and Assisted Living Residents will be tested. This is called Point Prevalence Survey Testing (PPS), which entails testing all residents in a designated area of a facility, whether or not they have symptoms, on one day. Testing will be performed by staff from Hartford HealthCare. Duncaster staff will accompany the Hartford HealthCare staff to facilitate the process and ensure you are comfortable and have required photo ID information. Testing will be a tip of the nose swab, not invasive.

When

Testing will take place on June 3rd beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Where

All residents in Assisted Living and Independent Living will be tested in your apartment home.

Why

The viral test results will be used to help us develop strategies and actions necessary to keep COVID-19 out of our community, detect COVID-19 cases quickly, detect any asymptomatic carriers, take appropriate action to stop

transmission and contain the spread. This information will also be used to guide us in our planning for reopening our campus.

Duncaster Staff-Next Steps

All staff who work in skilled nursing at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center will be tested over a 7-10 day period beginning on June 1st using a staggered approach to ensure that we meet staffing needs to provide safe care to residents should we have staff that test positive and need to be excluded from work. Plans are also being developed to test all staff who work in Independent Living and Assisted Living.

Looking Ahead

I am well aware that our residents, as well as our families and staff, are experiencing emotional and physical fatigue with our current situation. I know that you are anxious to get “out and about”. While it is encouraging to see the State of Connecticut slowly reopening we must be cognizant of the fact that Duncaster residents are at high risk for infection, serious illness, and death from COVID-19. With stores, restaurants, churches, salons etc. slowly opening, and the increased opportunities for gathering and interaction, there is a higher risk of virus transmission. Let’s minimize the chances of accidental exposure.

I remain very proud of our efforts to date in managing and mitigating this disease. With that said I must again ask for your continued compliance with our current policies and restrictions. These policies and procedures have been put in place for one very important reason-your continued health. Personal responsibility is key to keeping you, your fellow residents, and our staff healthy and safe. I know everyone is anxiously looking forward to enjoying the programs, services and amenities that are so important to the well-being of our residents. With continued compliance with existing restrictions, should our resident testing have encouraging and favorable results, we can plan for a careful, safe and phased reopening of our community for all residents.

Please be smart, be safe and be well.