



September 11, 2020

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

Today marks the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people and left over 6,000 injured. A day marked by shock, terror, sorrow, and tremendous loss. As we solemnly remember the devastating terrorist attacks against America let us never forget the victims and heroes of this tragic day in American history.

As 9/11 brought our country together today's pandemic has challenged our community to stand together, make sacrifices and remain steadfast in the ongoing battle to keep the virus out of Duncaster and keep our residents and staff safe and healthy.

## **Testing Update**

### ***Resident Testing***

All Duncaster Independent Living residents will be tested **Wednesday, September 16th between 10am-12:30pm**. Testing will be performed at your apartment doorway by Duncaster staff. Since the exact time of your test is hard to pinpoint, please be ready and available between 10am and 12:30pm. If you have an appointment the morning of September 16<sup>th</sup>, please call Janet Lamenzo at Ext 5115 to notify her and we will make arrangements to have you tested in the afternoon. Results will be available within 48 to 72 hours after the test. We will communicate the results as soon as they become available.

### ***Staff Testing***

Routine staff COVID testing procedures have recently changed. Routine testing intervals now vary by community COVID-19 activity level in addition to outbreak activity in our community, which is considered one positive resident or staff member.

In addition to consideration for any positive cases amongst staff and residents, we are now guided to conduct routine testing of all staff according to community prevalence. If the county positivity rate increases, we must immediately increase testing for the appropriate frequency. If the positivity rate for the county decreases, the lower positivity rate must be sustained for a period of 2 weeks before we can reduce testing to the appropriate frequency. The county positivity rate will determine the frequency of routine staff testing as follows:

1. If the county positivity rate in the past week is less than 5% then the COVID-19 activity is considered low and testing requirement is once a month.
2. If the county positivity rate in the past week is 5 to 10% than the COVID-19 activity is considered medium and the testing requirement is once a week.
3. If the county positivity rate in the past week is greater than 10% than the COVID-19 activity is considered high and the testing requirement is twice a week.

Current % positive rates in CT are all in the low activity levels with Hartford County at 1.3% positivity rate. Because Duncaster has no positive cases at this time and the fact that all CT counties are in the low activity levels for COVID 19, we have begun testing all our staff once a month at the rate of 25% per week. **So far this month, 25% of the staff at Caleb Hitchcock that were tested this week are all negative and 25% of the staff who work in the Main Building that were tested this week are all negative.**

### **Program Notes**

The Reverend Hope and Bill Eakins, Duncaster residents, will be conducting weekly ecumenical Sunday worship in the Meeting Room beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. The half-hour service will include music, Scripture readings, prayers and a brief sermon. Due to COVID-19 restrictions seating will be limited to 25 and you must make a reservation with Resident Services.

On Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Plavin will present a Rosh Hashanah program and services at 3:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Seating is limited and reservations are required. You can sign up by calling Resident Services.

The Art Showcase featuring more than twenty residents sharing their work in oils, pastels, watercolors, collages, multi-media, crewel embroideries, photographs is up for all to see. This incredible display of talent has been wonderfully received by residents and staff.

Enjoy the beautiful September weekend. And remember to wear your mask, wash your hands and keep your distance.

Be well. Be safe.