



September 18, 2020

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

Headlines this week in the Hartford Courant: “Health officials prepare for second wave”, “State’s trends a worry”, “State empties nursing home”, “Virus closes about a dozen schools” are a stark reminder of the ongoing battle we have with COVID-19 and how easily it can spread. Just yesterday Governor Lamont noted concerning trends in Connecticut’s COVID-19 numbers as the state’s rate of positive tests ticked up and the number of hospitalized patients climbed to its highest level in more than two months.

The news is evidence that if you let your guard down, the virus will find opportunities to infect people. While our successful community results to-date speak for themselves, we know we cannot yet let down our defenses nor become complacent. I can assure you that our Duncaster team is focused on continuing this fight against COVID-19, remaining vigilant and working tirelessly to regain some sense of normal in our community.

Testing Update

Resident Testing

All Duncaster Independent Living residents were tested on Wednesday, September 16th. **As of this writing all tests results are negative with four pending.**

Staff Testing

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 are testing all our staff once a month at the rate of 25% per week. **So far this month, 50% of all staff have been tested and all are negative.**

Future Testing

All residents will be tested once a month. All Duncaster staff will be tested once a month-25% each week. This will continue unless there is an outbreak (one case-resident or staff) at which time the frequency will increase.

Helpful Tips-Independent and Assisted Living

The great progress we have made is a testament to the diligent efforts of our staff in following the policies and protocols required to fight the threat of this

dangerous virus. It is also a testament to the cooperation and compliance of all residents and family members. We should all take great pride in what we've achieved together. With that said, we are all feeling "pandemic fatigue" yet we cannot let our guard down, especially with so many residents out and about. Here are some reminders of things you can do to keep our community safe:

- 1) Always wear your mask and make sure it covers your nose and mouth. Masks are especially important if a 6 foot social distance cannot be maintained, such as in hallways.
- 2) Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- 3) Avoid touching your face, eyes or mouth.
- 4) Wash your masks in-between wearing them.
- 5) Keep a log of where you have been and who you have been with. This can be done in a variety of ways: keep a log, put it on your calendar or come to the Aquatic and Fitness Entrance and fill out the form about where you have been. Choose the best method for your needs.
- 6) We are still not open to indoor visitors. Staff and contractors are tested monthly. If a resident is in need of a service from a visitor, please call Resident Services or Kelly Papa to describe the need. While the no visitor guidance is in place, there are times for safety, health or compassion care reasons, in which exceptions are made. Exceptions are made on a situational basis following guidelines that have been in place since March. Does it have to happen today? Is there any other way to fulfill the need? Is it for a safety, health, or well-being reason?
- 7) Please continue to visit outside while the weather is nice. Guests should continue to sign up on the Sign Up Genius and get screened at the Aquatic and Fitness Entrance. This is so we have a record of who is here and their contact information in case we ever need it. As reminder there should be no more than 2 visitors at a time and no children under 14. Limit visits for 30 minutes or less with masks on at all times. Please refrain from eating and drinking to minimize transmission risk.

Program Notes

COVID-19 Pandemic Support Group

We are all struggling with the changes in our lives brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This small 8-person group will offer time to share and listen to others about how they are dealing with this challenging time. There will be a focus on building resiliency, adapting to change, and finding meaning in our lives during this challenging time. Hosted by Sara-Janowski-Therion, you can sign up by calling Sara at ext. 5012.

Outdoor Concert

Friday September 25th at 4:00 PM on the Town Green

Art Sounds of the World featuring Jinni Shen, soprano, Pierre-Nicolas Colombat, piano and Coer Joseph Kendall, tenor. This trio of young classical musicians will perform art songs in Italian, German, French, English and Chinese. Please reserve a seat by calling Resident Services at ext. 5116.

As always, we thank you for your support and words of encouragement that sustain us during this challenging time.

Be well. Be safe.