



February 26, 2021

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

### **State Covid-19 Update**

Connecticut continues to rank in the top four states in the nation for vaccine distribution. So far, the state has vaccinated:

- 73 percent of its population over the age of 75
- 44 percent of its population between the ages of 65 and 74

Those who are currently eligible to receive the vaccine under Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccination program include all individuals over the age of 65, as well as all healthcare personnel, medical first responders, residents and staff of long-term care facilities, and residents and staff of select congregate settings. Over the coming weeks, eligibility will expand based on age according to the following schedule:

- March 1, 2021: Expands to ages 55 to 64
- March 22, 2021: Expands to ages 45 to 54
- April 12, 2021: Expands to ages 35 to 44
- May 3, 2021: Expands to ages 16 to 34

Information on Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccination program is available at [ct.gov/covidvaccine](https://ct.gov/covidvaccine).

Governor Lamont announced that his administration was informed by the federal government that Connecticut is expected to receive 30,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine next week, pending approval of the vaccine by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, which could come as early as this weekend.

### **Vaccination Clinic**

The third and final clinic at the Main Building will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> for any resident, staff member or contractor who received their first vaccine on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We continue to focus on education and discussions with employees who have chosen not to be vaccinated and are strongly encouraging everyone to do so at vaccination clinics.

### **Testing**

We continue with our weekly testing of all staff in both buildings. All testing results received at this time of this memo are negative. This week we have also tested all Caleb Hitchcock Health Center residents as well as Assisted Living residents and are awaiting results. If we do not have any positives at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center this week, then we will be off the outbreak mode and will suspend testing for residents. This will also allow Caleb Hitchcock Health Center residents to have indoor visitations, small group activities, and we will be able to open the salon.

## Helpful Tips

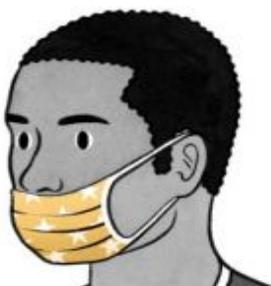
Please remember to wear a face mask any time that you leave your home. Here are a few helpful tips on mask wearing:

- Your mask should be worn over your nose, mouth and chin.
- Always wash your hands before and after wearing a mask.
- Use the ties or loops to put your mask on and pull it off.
- Don't touch the front of the mask when you take it off.
- Put the mask on and remove it while inside your home.
- Wear your mask in hallways, elevators and stairwells, and in all Commons areas.
- Please keep your mask stored in a paper bag when not in use.

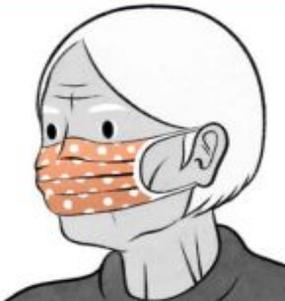
### CORRECT USE



### EXAMPLES OF INCORRECTLY WORN MASKS



**COVER  
YOUR NOSE**



**COVER  
YOUR CHIN**



**THIS IS  
TOO LOOSE**



**DON'T REST  
MASK ON NECK**

## **Visitation**

Based upon current metrics and since nearly 100% of our residents have received the vaccine, we are planning to ease indoor visitation restrictions next week while continuing to follow necessary infection control procedures. As such we have been carefully developing new visitation guidelines with responsible conditions and precautions. On Monday March 1<sup>st</sup> a detailed summary “Guidelines for Indoor Visitation” will be delivered to all residents and families. It is important to note that this guidance comes with an element of risk and it is incumbent upon the entire Duncaster community; residents, staff and families, to take responsibility for your actions, to manage personal and community risk and to adhere to the guidelines.

This week we were reminded by our state association that we are approaching the one year anniversary of this pandemic. All of us in not-for-profit senior living have been asked to share thoughts and memories from the past year and to share the following message on social media.

Through resilience, rigid safety standards and creative problem-solving, we have endured and managed through this pandemic, and are beginning to emerge from it.

We never tired, and never will, when it came to caring for and keeping safe the older adults in our care – that is our mission and that is the promise we have made to every resident and their families.

**And we are stronger together!**

Be well and be safe.