



February 5, 2021

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

It will be a busy weekend at Duncaster. We expect to administer the vaccine to 115 employees and contractors and approximately 250 residents in Independent Living, Assisted Living (Talcott Notch/Thistle Way), Caleb Hitchcock Health Center, Dogwood and Life Care on the Go. The Vaccine Clinics will be held as follows:

Vaccine Clinic

Main Building. The 2nd vaccine clinic for residents and staff is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th from 11 am to 5 pm. The 3rd vaccine clinic for residents and staff, those who get their first vaccine on February 6th, will take place on February 27th.

Caleb Hitchcock Health Center. The 3rd vaccine clinic for residents and staff will be held on February 7th.

Testing

At this time there are no new active cases of COVID-19 in our community! All Duncaster residents and staff, Main Building and Caleb Hitchcock Health Center, tested negative this week.

Caleb Hitchcock Health Center

Indoor Visitation:

With the good news that all Caleb Hitchcock Health Center staff and residents have tested negative for 2 consecutive weeks we can now open up to indoor visitations within the DPH safety guidelines. We are very excited, as we know you are too, and staff is ready to welcome you back inside. Please note the following guidelines for indoor visitation:

1. Indoor visitation will be offered once per week for 30 minutes for each resident.
2. 2 visitors will be allowed at one time.
3. Visitors will need to make an appointment through sign-up genius using the below link.
[Caleb & Cedar: Resident Indoor Visits \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)
4. We will not be able to accommodate those that do not make appointments via signup genius or any last-minute appointments.
5. When you come in, you will be screened and receive a rapid test.
6. You will be asked to sign in and sign out upon arrival and prior to leaving.
7. If your rapid test is negative, you will be seated in the great room at a table.
8. You will Purell in and Purell out.
9. Your loved one will be brought in through the garden area entrance and will be seated at the other end of the table.
10. There will be a Plexiglas divider in the center of the table.
11. After the 30 minutes are up, you will say your goodbyes and leave through the door in the hallway to the reception area.
12. We expect you to be masked covering your mouth and nose during the entire visit.

13. We expect that you will not touch the resident or come within 6 feet distance of your loved one.

14. Our Life Enrichment staff will be managing and coordinating the appointments.

Please note that if the positivity rate in the county is over 10% and/or we have a new onset of COVID-19 positive case, staff or resident, we will need to stop indoor visitations until the rate drops below 10% and we have no positive cases for 14 consecutive days. We will continue to accommodate your requests for Zoom, Skype, FaceTime and window visits as we have during this pandemic.

Promising News

Connecticut reported a 3.14% COVID-19 test positivity rate on Thursday, the lowest single-day COVID-19 positivity rate since October 30th. Newly released data shows all Connecticut counties either at or below the 10% positivity rate. In addition, with nearly all nursing homes residents in the state getting vaccinated, the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in nursing homes have dropped nearly 70% over the past two weeks. Experts noted that this decline provides clear evidence that vaccinations have already reduced coronavirus spread and likely saved lives in Connecticut.

As a result of our current testing results, vaccination program and positive trends reported by the Department of Public Health, our first phase of re-opening began this week. We are currently open to what we call “individual” activities where one can be socially distant and low risk for spreading or acquiring COVID-19, specifically the mail room, library, woodworking shop, outpatient physical therapy and the fitness center. With careful reopening on our minds we can’t help to begin thinking about what life at Duncaster will look like post vaccination. The management team has been scenario planning next steps for the phased roll out of reopening from restrictions. We will continue to follow the local and state prevalence, CDC recommendations and any cases of COVID-19 in the Duncaster community to inform decisions on areas to loosen restrictions. We are using the points in time of 2-weeks past first dose, 2 weeks past second dose and 1 month after second dose as milestones in our reopening. Plans to move towards group programs and meetings may be rolled out at 2 weeks past the second dose. Then if all goes well, a 3rd phase of reopening may include slowly opening dining. We will always do our best to listen to recommendations, ideas, concerns and individual needs as we have this past year.

While we are all excited to be getting the second dose of the vaccine we must remember that this does not mean that we can let our guard down. No vaccine is 100% protective. With 95% efficacy, one in 20 people vaccinated could still get moderate to severe infection if exposed to COVID-19. It takes time for the vaccine’s effectiveness to build up, typically two weeks after the second vaccine for full effectiveness. Therefore, in our ongoing efforts to mitigate risks, please continue to wear a mask, socially distance, avoid crowds and wash your hands regardless of vaccination status.

Be well and be safe.