



March 12, 2021

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

It's hard to believe that it has been one year, this week, since the coronavirus pandemic officially started. The World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The pandemic's abrupt and profound change in our lives, compounded for so many by illness, caretaking and grief, has affected all of us in so many different ways.

Our leadership team decided this week to mark the anniversary with a concerted effort to pause, contemplate and remember. We spent time reflecting on the past year, what we learned about ourselves, what we were most proud of, what we need going forward and what we need to let go of. It was a powerful and emotional exercise as each leader shared their personal journey. While the exercise was emotionally draining, it was also energizing and the leadership team is now filled with hope as we look towards the future.

As we have been gradually reopening, our residents have welcomed with great enthusiasm the increased activity within the community. And with warmer weather and a renewed sense of optimism, I can feel the spirits of our residents and staff begin to rise again.

Visitation

Caleb Hitchcock Health Center

We have opened up to indoor visitations at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center and Assisted Living and are following all DPH guidelines for safety. This week CMS released new indoor visitation guidelines for Skilled Nursing facilities. We are currently in the process of reviewing all of the changes and will communicate and implement the changes early next week. The new guidance represents a real step toward returning to everyday activities at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Ami Desai, VP-Health Services /Administrator at 860-726-2399.

Independent Living and Assisted Living

We are pleased to let you know that indoor visitation is going well and as vaccination rates increase, COVID-19 cases decline and travel guidance has been relaxing we have some updates to our visitation guidance.

As of Monday March 15, 2021 all visitors will be required to present proof of either:

- Vaccination completed more than two weeks before the visit, OR
- A negative COVID-19 PCR test collected within 7 days of the visit.

If you have this proof, you may call or email our Aquatic Receptionist with the date and time you intend to visit. Please note that:

- All Visitors must give 24 hour notice; and
- There are to be no more than 2 visitors allowed in an apartment at a time; and
- All visitors must be 18 years of age or older.

To make your visitation appointment you may:

- Call (860) 726-2000 or
- Email: DuncasterVisits@Duncaster.org

Visitation appointments are offered 7 days a week during the hours a receptionist is available to screen visitors. Times for visiting are:

- Monday through Friday 10am-6pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10am-4:30pm

Your cooperation and patience during this pandemic has contributed enormously to keeping our community safe and healthy.

Testing

Monthly Point Prevalence COVID-19 testing for all Independent Living Residents was held on Wednesday, March the 10th. All test results received as of this writing are negative with 10 results still pending.

All Assisted Living residents and all Duncaster staff, Main Building and Caleb Hitchcock Health Center, have tested negative this week. The Caleb Hitchcock Health Center residents were not tested this week as Caleb is not currently in an outbreak.

Be well and be safe, and don't forget to Spring Forward.