



March 19, 2021

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

As we continue to move towards a “new” normal and the resumption of many of the programs, services and daily activities, my hope is that these updates will be shorter and less frequent. With that said, I will always provide you with any new information to ensure that you are fully informed of the impact of COVID-19 and what we are doing to keep our residents, staff and community safe.

### **Reopening**

I am pleased to report that our phased-in approach to reopening throughout the campus is working well.

Next week the Culinary Department will be taking an important first step towards reopening the Dining Rooms (Phase 1). On Tuesday March 23, 2021 residents will have the option of going to the Dining Room to pick up their meals Monday-Friday as follows:

Lunch time 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Dinner 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Meal delivery will continue to be provided Monday-Saturday as follows:

Lunch 10:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Dinner 3:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sunday 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Menu pick up will now be 4:00 p.m. the night before. Please indicate on your memo whether you want delivery or will pick up. For those who come to pick up your meals, please remember to practice social distancing, wear your mask and follow the new instructions for entering and exiting the Dining Room. Servers will be available to assist residents.

The Culinary team is now planning for the reopening of the dining rooms with seated service (Phase 2). More information will be forthcoming.

### **Visitation**

*Caleb Hitchcock Health Center*

Unfortunately Caleb Hitchcock Health Center is now in an outbreak mode with all indoor visitations suspended at this time. Compassionate care visits are continuing. All residents and staff are being tested and all necessary protocols are being followed.

### *Independent Living and Assisted Living*

Indoor visitation continues to go well. The following guidelines must be followed;

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. To make your visitation appointment you may:

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

Please note that:

- All Visitors must give 24 hour notice;
- 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.

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 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

## **Testing**

### *Main Building*

All staff in the Main Building have tested negative this week.

### *Caleb Hitchcock Health Center*

We have a “breakthrough” case of a positive employee (fully vaccinated) at Caleb Hitchcock Health Center, which puts us in outbreak mode and requires suspending all indoor visitation at this time. “Breakthrough” cases of COVID-19 are people who test positive 14 days or more after receiving their last doses of the vaccine. Compassionate care visits are continuing. All residents and staff are being tested and all necessary protocols are being followed.

## **Health Services and Clinic**

Independent Living and Assisted Living residents are receiving a survey in their mail boxes regarding health services offered at Duncaster and the Clinic. Feedback is important and will be used to make decisions to improve and add to the services currently provided. The survey should only take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. The completed survey can be placed in a box labeled “Health Services Survey” by Resident Services or given to Resident Services.

## **Duncaster Vaccination Status Update**

Overall staff vaccine rate for full time staff is 73%. We have arranged for a Town Hall virtual meeting next week with Keith Grant, Director of Infection Prevention at Hartford HealthCare, to answer any questions staff have regarding hesitancy in taking the vaccine.

## **State of Connecticut Vaccination Status Update**

So far, 62 percent of Connecticut’s population over the age of 55 has received at least one dose, including:

- 78 percent of those over the age of 75;
- 74 percent of those between 65 and 74; and
- 46 percent of those between 55 to 64.

In total, 33 percent of all adults in Connecticut over the age of 16 have received at least one dose.

Those who are currently eligible to receive the vaccine under Connecticut’s COVID-19 vaccination program include all individuals over the age of 55, as well as all healthcare personnel, medical first responders, residents and staff of long-term care facilities, residents and staff of select congregate settings, and preK-12 school staff and professional childcare providers. Over the coming weeks, eligibility will expand based on age according to the following schedule:

- March 19, 2021: Scheduling opens to ages 45 to 54
- April 5, 2021 (tentative): Scheduling opens to ages 16 to 44

## **Connecticut’s New Guidance**

### **Beginning Friday, March 19, 2021**

All capacity limits will be eliminated for the following businesses, while face coverings, social distancing, and other cleaning and disinfecting protocols will continue to be required:

- Restaurants (8-person table capacity and 11PM required closing time for dining rooms continues)
- Retail
- Libraries
- Personal services
- Indoor recreation (excludes theaters, which will continue to have a 50% capacity)
- Gyms/fitness centers
- Museums, aquariums, and zoos
- Offices
- Houses of worship

Gathering sizes will be revised to the following:

- Social and recreational gatherings at private residence-25 indoor and 100 outdoors
- Social and recreational gatherings at commercial venues-100 indoors and 200 outdoors

All sports will be allowed to practice and compete, and all sports tournaments will be allowed, subject to Department of Public Health guidance.

Connecticut's travel advisory will be modified from a requirement to recommended guidance.

### **Beginning Monday, March 29, 2021**

- Capacity limits on early childhood classes will increase from 16 to 20

### **Beginning Friday, April 2, 2021**

- Outdoor amusement parks can open
- Outdoor event venues can increase to a 50% capacity, capped at 10,000 people
- Indoor stadiums can open at 10% capacity

- Summer camps and summer festivals are advised to begin the planning stages to open for the upcoming season

Be well and be safe.