



March 26, 2021

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

Governor Ned Lamont announced yesterday that he is accelerating Connecticut's age-based rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to proceed on a quicker schedule than was originally anticipated. The new timeline will allow all Connecticut residents age 16 and older to begin making vaccination appointments on April 1st. The revised schedule comes as the state was informed by the Biden administration that it should anticipate receiving a significant increase in supplies of all three federally authorized vaccines over the next several weeks.

Connecticut continue to rank in the top five states in the nation in the percentage of population that has been vaccinated. Individuals who are currently eligible to receive the vaccine in Connecticut include:

- All individuals age 45 and older;
- 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.

Going forward, Connecticut's rollout of the vaccine will proceed on the following schedule:

- April 1st -Scheduling opens to all individuals age 16 and above.
- The state will work with providers and the Department of Developmental Services to accelerate access for the most medically high-risk individuals under 45 during the month of April.

Reopening

I am pleased to report that our first step towards reopening the Dining Rooms (Phase 1) is working well. Residents now have the option of either pick-up or delivery. Last Tuesday, residents were allowed to return to the Dining Room to pick-up their meals (Monday-Friday). Delivery of meals will continue to be offered seven days per week. The following is the current Dining schedule:

Monday – Friday

Lunch

Delivery 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Pick Up 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Dinner

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

Pick Up 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Saturday

Delivery 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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

Sunday

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

Menu pick up will now be the same time when dinner is delivered. Please have menus filled out and left outside your door and indicate on your menu 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 has developed plans for the slow and careful reopening of the dining rooms with seated service (Phase 2). More information will be coming very soon.

Visitation

Caleb Hitchcock Health Center and Memory Care Assisted Living

Visitation has resumed at Caleb Hitchcock Health Center in all neighborhoods with the exception of Cedar. Compassionate care visits are continuing in all neighborhoods.

Independent Living and Social Assisted Living

Due to the success of the first phase of reopening for apartment visitation, we are no longer asking for visitors to make appointments for visits.

The following guidelines must be followed;

- 1) 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.

2) Please note that:

- There are to be no more than 2 visitors allowed in an apartment at a time.
- All visitors must be 18 years of age or older.
- Visitors are only allowed in the residents' apartments, not in common areas.
- While not encouraged visitors may stay the night in the resident's apartment.

3) Visitation is open 7 days a week during the hours a receptionist is available to screen visitors. Times for beginning the visit are:

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

Testing

Main Building

One staff member in the Main Building tested positive this week. This staff member is isolating at home and appropriate contact tracing has been conducted. This staff member had little to no contact with residents. All necessary protocols are being followed.

Caleb Hitchcock Health Center

All staff and residents are negative from this week's testing.

Be well and be safe.