



April 16, 2021

Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

Michael A. O'Brien, President and CEO

Both the Courtyard Cafe and the Terrace Room re-opened on Monday to great excitement. Residents were delighted to return and enjoy the Duncaster dining experience with friends and neighbors. The rooms were filled with chatter, laughter and good cheer. For many it was the first time in over a year that they dined in a dining room and the number of diners increased each evening. Our staff was also thrilled to welcome our residents back even sporting originally designed tee shirts showing residents how much they missed them.

According to Ken Cassella, Culinary Director, we are here and ready for you to enjoy the Duncaster dining experience in our two beautiful locations. If you are not quite ready for seated dining the survery/buffet is open and waiting for you to customize your dinner as you like.

By all reports the experience was positive and the food and service was excellent. Residents provided us with important feedback and the Culinary Team will use that feedback to continue improve the overall dining experience.

Testing

Main Building

All staff members in the Main Building tested negative this week. We will be testing all Independent Living residents on April 28th between the hours of 9:00 am-12:00 noon. More information will be forthcoming.

Caleb Hitchcock Health Center

All staff are negative from this week's testing. Caleb Hitchcock Health Center and Dogwood Assisted Living residents were not tested this week as we are out of the outbreak mode. The State has extended weekly testing reimbursement for Nursing Home sand Assisted Living staff until June 30th, 2021.

We had one independent living resident (fully vaccinated) test positive for COVID-19 this week during a hospital visit. The resident is quarantined in their

apartment, is stable and is being monitored by our nursing staff. Appropriate contact tracing has been completed and it was determined the exposure risk to others was low. Upon return to Duncaster the resident had a rapid test and a PCR test and results were negative.

When a person that is fully vaccinated, gets the virus and tests positive, it is referred to as a “breakthrough case”. Some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still become infected because no vaccine provides 100% protection against infection. There is no singular explanation for why the virus in rare cases is not neutralized by the vaccine-induced immune response. Infectious-disease experts say the human immune system is complicated, and some people may simply have a weak immune response to the vaccine. The cases reported so far among people already fully vaccinated were among elderly individuals who may have had underlying health conditions and may not have mounted a strong immune response when vaccinated. The CDC is still gathering data on these breakthrough cases and its prevalence.

It is therefore important to remember that as we relax some of our restrictions we must continue to observe all infection prevention measures including masking, distancing and hand hygiene until we know more and herd immunity is achieved.

Other Services

Dental Services

We have been notified that Dr. Mumford and a hygienist from Farmington Dental will resume services at Duncaster within a month. Further details will be forthcoming as the day and times get solidified.

Mental Health Services

Starting April 19, 2021, a psychiatric APRN, Danielle McCarthy from Institute of Living (IOL) will be providing mental health services in the clinic. She will be here every Monday from 12:30pm - 4:30pm and will see residents by appointment only. If you have any further questions regarding this, please call clinic and speak with Kristen Leonard at (860)380-5150.

In closing I have been writing these weekly messages since March 2,2020. As we continue to see our community return safely to a new “normal” I have decided at

this time to provide updates on an as needed basis. Our goal from the beginning of the pandemic was to be fully transparent and communicate in a timely basis. Therefore, if there is important information that needs to be shared, you can be assured I will get that information to you promptly.

Be well and be safe.