



## **Memo to Duncaster Residents**

Date: August 13, 2021  
To: Duncaster Independent Living Residents  
From: Kelly Papa, Acting President and CEO  
Subject: Covid-19 Updates

We hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying your summer. We are writing to update you on the status of Covid-19 in our community. As you may know, on August 6th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) designated Hartford County as an area with “high” community transmission of Covid-19, meaning the area is experiencing 100 or more new cases per 100,000 population over the last seven days. This increase in cases is driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant of the virus, which is now the predominant strain and represents more than 80% of the cases in the northeast. The Delta variant spreads twice as easily from person to person when compared to earlier strains. While almost all of the hospitalizations and deaths that are occurring as a result of the Delta variant are presenting in unvaccinated individuals, vaccine breakthrough cases are occurring as well, albeit with mild symptoms.

While fewer in number, vaccine breakthrough cases are contributing to the spread of the Delta variant in our state, as evidenced by cases occurring as a result of group gatherings. In areas with high transmission (like Hartford County), the CDC recommends that everyone (regardless of vaccination status) wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent the spread of the Delta variant and to protect others. As Ami Desai, VP-Health Services, shared yesterday, during our testing this week we had a positive fully vaccinated employee, who is asymptomatic. This employee had no resident contact and minimal contact with other staff. This employee is home isolating.

With all of this in mind, we are asking that masks once again be worn when outside of your apartment and in common spaces, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, we highly encourage residents to wear masks in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores and gyms, and while in crowds, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, we remind residents of the following:

- Anyone experiencing Covid-19 symptoms should reach out to the Assisted Living Nurses (ext. 5152) who can give you a Covid-19 test in your apartment.
- Covid-19 symptoms are similar to cold, flu and allergy symptoms. If you are feeling ill, DO NOT assume it is a cold or allergies. Get tested.

- Because the Delta variant is spreading quickly and easily, it is critically important for individuals experiencing symptoms and/or those who have been exposed to get tested, isolate and wear a mask until they receive test results.
- The basic control strategies of proper mask wearing, social distancing, staying home when sick, and hand hygiene continue to be critically important in slowing the spread.
- Ways to remind yourself to put your mask on: hang them by the door, put up a sign on the inside of your door.
- If you are having deliveries or services provided in your apartment by outside vendors, they need to come to screen at the Aquatics Entrance. Service providers must be fully vaccinated or provide a negative PCR test result. For deliveries, please make sure they are addressed to 30 Loeffler, the Aquatics Entrance.
- All visitors must be screened at the Aquatics Entrance prior to going to a resident apartment. Visitors must be over the age of 12, fully vaccinated or have had a negative Covid-19 test within 7 days of the visit. Visitors must wear a mask over their nose and mouth while in common areas.

Remember, even more than masking, vaccination is the most important public health action that an individual can take to help end the Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to have good evidence that vaccines are safe and effective and provide protection against the variants circulating in the United States. With that in mind, Duncaster has implemented a mandatory vaccination policy requiring that all employees receive the Covid-19 vaccination and be fully vaccinated by October 1, 2021.

In closing, we would like to once again express our gratitude to the Duncaster residents and community for your continued cooperation and understanding. It is reassuring to know that our residents and staff members are committed to doing everything they can to protect themselves and their neighbors from this virus.

Be safe and be well.