



Memo to Duncaster Residents

Date: September 2, 2021
To: Duncaster Independent Living Residents
From: Kelly Papa, Acting President and CEO
Subject: Updates and reminders

Did you see the leaves beginning to change colors at the four corners? Can you believe it is September? We said goodbye to summer with some great events, including:

- Duncaster residents and staff supporting the Bloomfield Back-to-School celebration and backpack give-away event
- The Duncaster Bear named Harmony was unveiled in the center of Blue Back Square in West Hartford
- Staff began to attend the training on *Empathic Approaches when caring for people affected by dementia*, the first of 10 classes to be taught the Jenna Weiss, Director of Learning at LiveWell (formerly Alzheimer's Resource Center)
- Lobster night was a special evening, so much gratitude to the wonderful Duncaster Dining Team

As we recruit our new VP-Facilities Management, the facilities and dining team are being supported by Lou DeSario, our former and happily retired, VP-Operations. He is part of our commitment to *continuity of operations plan* and will be supporting renovations to new resident apartments. Please help me to thank the incredible facilities team who are running with so many projects and all this rain.

After a year-and-a-half of everyday normal activities being disrupted by Covid-19, we were finally relaxing many of the guidelines, restrictions, and protocols that we have been burdened with. Vaccinations seem to be doing their job. Yet, across the country, the number of vaccinated people testing positive for Covid-19 continues to soar. Many of us were hopeful that life would return to pre-pandemic norms and we could put Covid-19 behind us. However, the virus has mutated to a form known as the Delta Variant which has driven new Covid-19 cases in the wrong direction.

As a result, we are starting to see Covid-19 protocols and precautions return. In late July, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated recommendations that all people, regardless of vaccination status, should wear masks indoors in areas of substantial or high transmission. In the State of Connecticut, many towns recently re-enacted mask mandates. Vaccinated individuals have a lower risk of developing serious health problems from Covid-19; however, there have been breakthrough cases that have caused hospitalizations or death.

While we can enjoy some of the relaxed precautions, we must do so with an abundance of caution. The 3 most important things to remember are:

1. Wear your mask, over your mouth and nose when outside of your apartment.
2. Stay home if you are sick and call the Assisted Living Nurse (ext. 5152) for evaluation.
3. Follow guidance when bringing any visitors (or private duty staff) into Duncaster. It is your responsibility to ensure that your visitors are over the age of 12 years old and either vaccinated or have had a negative PCR test within 7 days of the visit. Children, toddlers and babies can visit outdoors but not indoors, for their and our safety.

I hope you enjoy the cooler weather and the beginning of the changing seasons. Stay well, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.