

January 5, 2021

Dear Cannondale Campus Resident, Family, Friend or Community Partner,

Happy New Year and, indeed, we have good reason to welcome 2021!

COVID-19 continues to be a headline story as we enter this next phase of the Pandemic. The Connecticut positive rate remains between 5.5 – 6.5% and the hospitalization rate is roughly stable at 1,111 Connecticut residents hospitalized. Unfortunately, Fairfield County continues to struggle with an infection rate over 10%.

At the Greens at Cannondale and the entire Cannondale Campus we remain at a zero-percent resident infection rate since April 13<sup>th</sup>. Two staff COVID-19 tests from last week were positive. One was a contracted worker and the other works in support services – both remain asymptomatic and were promptly excluded from the workplace. We are only testing residents who are suspicious of, or at an elevated risk for, COVID-19.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has made us aware of the newer strain of COVID-19 that you have undoubtedly heard about in the news. To share some information per the CDC, this mutation remains the same SARS CoV-2 virus as when the pandemic started. There have been multiple mutations since then and this variant (B.1.1.7) seems to be more infectious than prior strains. It has not been shown to create more illness or mortality than the original or prior strains. Our current infection control practices remain prudent for this COVID-19 variant.

Despite stability in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut and effective infection control on our campus, the Fairfield County positivity rate remains at approximately 10.9%. With guidance from DPH, we must continue our suspension of indoor visitation. Compassionate care and end-of-life visitation remains allowed with approval from me or the Director of Wellness. All families may still visit their loved one out-doors or in our heated visitation tent but are required to wear a mask at all times. Please reserve your visit by calling our main number at 203-761-1191. Once the infection rate in our local area improves, we will quickly return to indoor visitation. Although outdoor visitation is allowed at The Greens, taking your loved one home will require us to implement room observation for 14 days post return.

We anticipate relaxation of infection control measures as resident, staff and community vaccination occurs and, more importantly, viral prevalence and transmission decreases among our local community. Our decision making as we slowly return to our pre-Pandemic operation will be made with guidance from DPH and via collaboration with our medical staff and Wilton Health officials.

The re-opening of our Main Dining Room for Traditional Care residents remains successful. As you may know, residents of Evergreen and The Residence have been successfully dining this way for some time. These forms of communal dining provide a social atmosphere but ensure 6-foot distancing between residents. Our programming lineup at The Greens remains robust and all events are conducted in a socially distanced manner. A list of Greens Cannondale socially distanced programming highlights is listed at the end of this document.

COVID-19 Vaccination is confirmed for Greens at Cannondale residents and staff as follows:

**Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm and for the booster**

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm**

A member of our wellness team will be reaching out to you sometime within the next two weeks to obtain your verbal consent to vaccinate you or your loved one.

Key aspects of COVID-19 vaccination include the following highlights:

- 100% of Greens Residents and staff will have an opportunity to receive their vaccine as phase 1A.
- The vaccine is provided at no cost.
- Our primary in-house pharmacy, Omnicare, is a CVS subsidiary and CVS will be completing the vaccination process from “end to end” including the injection. Greens staff will be present to facilitate.
- Most residents will receive their vaccine in a clinic area (The 1<sup>st</sup> floor Cafe’). Those that need bed-side vaccination will be accommodated accordingly.
- The vaccine is manufactured by Pfizer requiring two-doses administered 21 days apart.
- A series of educational sessions for residents and staff is in progress to communicate vaccination safety understanding and trust.
- We are told that the most common side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine uncovered in clinical trials is patient fatigue identified in 4-10% of recipients.
- The vaccine is not mandatory. Please be prepared to provide consent if you are the healthcare decision maker for yourself or your loved one. Those who do not consent

to vaccination during phase 1A may not have an opportunity to receive it until a much later phase in the distribution process.

- Please see common questions and answers below from the Society for Post-Acute Care. See below from the CDC regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. I hope you find them most helpful and well-referenced.

I wish you abundant joy, health and peace in the New Year and thank you for the opportunity to serve your loved one.

With Warmest Regards,

Ronald V. Bucci

Senior Executive Director