

January 26, 2021

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

Sharing data effective yesterday, The Connecticut COVID-19 positivity rate is 4.73% and hospitalizations are roughly stable at 1,068 Connecticut residents hospitalized. The Fairfield County infection rate remains elevated at 13.7%.

The Greens at Cannondale remains at a zero-percent resident infection rate since April. Two new staff infections were identified during our weekly surveillance testing and these team members were, of course, excluded from the building. We are only testing residents who are suspicious of, or at an elevated risk for, COVID-19.

Broader projections from Center for Disease Control (CDC) are suggesting a current plateau of infection and illness after a period of holiday-related increase. The positive effects of phase 1-A will contribute to the anticipated decline in transmission.

There has been much in the news lately regarding COVID-19 variants or “mutant strains. We should keep in mind that, per the CDC, *“it is common for viruses to constantly change through mutation and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic.”* Be it the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (1.351) or Brazilian (P.1) variants, Public Health officials will continue their efforts to determine how widely these new variants have spread, how these variants affect existing therapies and vaccines; affect infection rates and illness and impact related to current testing and vaccine efficacy. Broad recommendations and those adopted by the Cannondale Campus have not changed. Rigorous compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such as vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine remain our steadfast focus on limiting the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and protecting public health.

The Connecticut Association of Assisted Living (CALA) recently formalized infection control standards and practices constituting “Clean and Safe” certification. “Clean and Safe” accreditation demonstrates an Assisted Living facility’s commitment to best practices and regulations specifically designed to mitigate the risks of COVID-19, and other, infectious diseases. The Cannondale Campus has taken the lead with The Greens at Cannondale receiving Connecticut’s first Assisted Living “Clean and Safe” designation.

With ongoing staff cases and elevated COVID transmission in Fairfield County. We must continue our suspension of indoor visitation. Compassionate care and end-of-life visitation are still 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.

Our COVID-19 vaccination clinic last week resulted in vaccination of nearly all of our residents and the vast majority of our staff received through Clinic # 1. Many staff “first dosers’ are already signed up for our second clinic as was the case with Wilton Meadows. Our remaining clinics are scheduled as follows:

**Clinic # 2 - Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 4 pm**

**Clinic # 3 - Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am - 4 pm**

Please see “community Vaccination “at the end of this document for information on how you or your loved one may receive vaccination through future phases.

Please note that our Facetime sign up process has changed – details under “Staying Connected” below.

With Warmest Regards,

Ronald V. Bucci  
Senior Executive Director