

December 8, 2020

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

The Connecticut COVID-19 positivity rate is at a seven-day average of 6.6% and 1,098 individuals are hospitalized – a weekly increase of 85. Fairfield County's COVID positivity rate has exceeded 10%. While this is still less infection and illness than most States, Connecticut's positivity and hospitalization rates have shown no sign of leveling off and remains a source of concern.

The Greens at Cannondale and Cannondale Campus continue with a resident infection rate of zero percent since April 13th. With another asymptomatic staff member testing positive through our weekly surveillance, residents with close contact to this employee will be tested. Ongoing resident testing continues to be required in situations such as these potential exposures. Given the high positivity rate in our local community, we will now begin testing all staff twice per week. Staff training regarding our infection control measures have been increased and we are fully stocked with all types of PPE.

With guidance from the Department of Public Health, we will be continuing our suspension of indoor visitation. Compassionate care and end-of-life visitation is allowed with approval from me or the Director of Wellness. All families may still visit at the Greens out-doors but are required to wear a mask at all times. Families are encouraged to reserve time to visit in the now heated tent for this purpose. One may reserve time in the tent by calling our main number at 203-761-1191. I remain hopeful that, once the infection rate in our area improves, we can soon return to indoor visitation.

Finding the optimal balance between COVID-19 infection control and social stimulation is particularly challenging during our area's "second wave" of infection. Our main dining room and large-scale activities remain suspended but we have successfully piloted a social distanced dining service for Traditional Care residents. Residence and Evergreen residents have been successfully dining this way for some time. Barring a concerning resident infection, we will be re-opening our Main Dining Room on Monday; December 21st. This will involve two seatings and a six-foot distance in between residents. Our programming calendar remains full of

activities that facilitate social distancing and meaningful engagement. A list of Greens Cannondale socially distanced programming highlights are listed at the end of this document.

The Greens will soon be facilitating vaccination of all staff and residents. Key aspects of COVID-19 vaccination includes the following highlights:

- The vaccine is awaiting FDA approval for “Emergency Use Verification” (EUV). Once approved, clinics will be rolled out in phases.
- Approval is expected this Thursday, 12/10 with likely distribution to “phase one” individuals by the third or fourth week of December.
- 100% of Greens Residents and staff will have an opportunity to receive their vaccine as phase 1A – the first vaccinated. 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 1st floor Cafe’). Those that need bed-side vaccination will be accommodated accordingly.
- The vaccine is a two dose vaccine that is administered approximately 21 days apart.
- Researchers have found both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to be > 90 percent effective to provide COVID-19 immunity. Protection will likely take a month or so.
- The vaccine will not be released until it has met all FDA safety standards. 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 ill effects of COVID-19 are vastly more severe than the side effects of vaccination. With > 40% of COVID-19 deaths occurring among those over 80 years old, vaccination will save an enormous number of lives – most being our precious seniors. Our greatest generation deserves our greatest effort.
- A member of our wellness team will be reaching out to you sometime in the next 2 weeks to obtain your consent to vaccinate. See below from the CDC regarding vaccine safety

“The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety is a top priority while federal partners work to make a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine(s) available.

Currently, clinical trials are evaluating investigational COVID-19 vaccines in many thousands of study participants to generate scientific data and other information for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine their safety and effectiveness. These clinical trials are being conducted according to the rigorous standards set forth by FDA in their June 2020 guidance document, [Development and Licensure of Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19](#)^{external icon}. If FDA determines that a vaccine meets its safety and effectiveness standards, it can make these vaccines available for use in the United States by approval or emergency use authorization.

After FDA makes its determination, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will review available data before making vaccine recommendations to CDC. [Learn more about how CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.](#)

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 on round one may not have an opportunity to receive it until a much later phase in the distribution process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve your loved one. Your patience, warmth and kindness are very much appreciated.

Warm Regards,

Ronald V Bucci

Senior Executive Director