

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

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

I have positive news to share with you today regarding the COVID-19 among our local community and on the Cannondale Campus. The Connecticut positivity and hospitalization rates have decreased to 3.83 % and 912, respectively. The Fairfield County infection rate has declined to 6.5%.

All staff COVID-19 tests obtained through our weekly surveillance last week are negative. Residents who are suspicious of, or at an elevated risk for, COVID-19 and the Greens at Cannondale remains at a zero-percent resident infection rate since April

It would appear that we are just beyond the plateau of infection and illness after a period of holiday-related increase. The positive effects of phase 1-A vaccination has likely also contributed to the decline in transmission.

Provided staff and resident infection rates remain at, or near, zero and the Fairfield County positivity rate remains less than 10 %, we are **re-instituting in door visitation effective Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**. I will have sufficient data to confirm this good news in time for my next update and Zoom meeting.

Consistent with the current best practices, visits during this phase will occur in designated common areas to minimize the chance of exposure between residents and visitors. Indoor visitation will be hosted between the hours of 9:00 - 5:00 pm and 7-days per week. Visitors can visit their loved one inside the Greens by calling the main number at (203) 761-1191 to reserve their slot. All visitors must wear a facemask before entering the building and throughout their visit – we can supply you with a facemask if you need one. Inside visitors will be screened in the front lobby for signs and risk factors of COVID-19 infection including a temperature check. Traditional Care residents and those living in our “Residence” may visit in our Cafe’ and families of our Evergreen residents may meet with family in a specialized visitation room within Evergreen. Along with this phase, we will also be planning larger resident events and entertainment including paid performers. All paid performers, like visitors, will be screened per our protocol. Future phases will involve a return to Resident Room visitation; however, ongoing decline in COVID-related illness in our county must occur before this is implemented.

Until then, we, of course, are allowing out door visitation in our heated visitation tent and compassionate care and end-of-life visitation inside resident rooms.

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.

Remaining COVID-19 vaccination 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**

If you have not yet already done so, please see “Community Vaccination” at the end of this document for information about receiving your COVID-19 vaccination.

As we all dig out from Winter Storm Orlena, I thought you might have interested in knowing our preparedness and practices related to severe weather. At The Greens, we are part of an organization called CT Mutual Aide. This consortium of facilities agree to support others in need of equipment, vendors, supplies, staff or to share bed capacity in the event of a disaster or major event involving coordination. We report to CT Mutual Aide daily and receive regular updates from them. In addition, The Greens has substantial generator capacity with oversized fuel tanks, a priority delivery contract and regular testing to ensure power through extended outages. We also keep many days of food and drink on hand at all times – often enough to serve our residents without having to alter our daily menu. The Greens is unique in that we offer staff “sleepover pay” whereby staff are compensated for staying over in empty rooms so that they need not travel in inclement weather. Between this, and the occasional staff pick up in all wheel drive vehicles, we are able to maintain staffing levels through most any severe weather event.

Hoping this message finds you well and brings you peace of mind regarding the safety of your loved one.

With Warmest Regards,

Ronald V. Bucci  
Senior Executive Director