



March 16, 2021

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

COVID-19 statistics among our local community and at The Cannondale Campus indicate mostly stable infection control. The Connecticut positivity and hospitalization rates are currently 2.95 % and 407, respectively. The Fairfield County positivity rate is 3.78%.

National and local Health officials are carefully watching COVID-19 variants and their effect of positivity rates, as well as, illness. The concern regarding these mutations relates to their apparent high level of transmissibility. We are told that current public health measures and ongoing vaccination (with emphasis) are working and remain our best defense. Mask wearing, avoiding crowded or high-risk situations, handwashing and vaccination remain effective against these new variants and, if needed, booster doses for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines could be rolled out promptly to address variants. Our current strategy to vaccinate all new Greens Cannondale residents and staff and continue our existing infection control restrictions including the more liberalized visitation practice described in my update from March 9th (repeated below).

All Greens at Cannondale staff tested negative based on surveillance testing from last week and COVID-19 infections for Greens at Cannondale residents remains at a zero-percent since April.

Indoor visitation continues without concern. Primary indoor visits will continue to occur in designated areas to minimize the chance of exposure between residents and visitors. Indoor visitation is scheduled between the hours of 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and 7-days per week by calling the main number at (203) 761-1191. We will continue to also arrange outdoor visitation in our heated visitation tent until April 1st. Compassionate care and end-of-life visitation inside resident rooms shall also continue and are not subject to time restrictions.

We feel that our phase of liberalizing infection control measures strikes a balance between promoting socialization and maintaining infection control. It is important to remember that the positive effects of vaccination call for a measured reopening keeping in mind that The Pandemic is not over. Factors such as vaccinated break-through infection and viral variants all require caution. With this in mind, please see COVID-19 infection control practices below:

Reminders/ Ongoing Measures:

- All staff and contractors must wear a well-fitting surgical mask at all times unless eating (with min. six foot distance) or in their own office with door closed.
- All staff must wash hands often and for 30 seconds - with vigor. Sanitizer is used when handwash facilities are not nearby.
- All staff and visitors must be “temped”, risk-screened and tracked daily. Contracted workers must complete risk screen forms and must wear masks at all times.
- Resident meals should be socially distanced meaning 6 foot distance while masks are off.
- Evergreen residents may eat and enjoy activities in a socially distanced manner.
- Residents should be encouraged to wear masks as tolerated. Although we supply masks and offer resident reminders, we cannot force this practice.
- Surfaces are regularly deep cleaned with approved disinfecting agents with particular focus on “high touch” areas.
- Mandatory weekly staff testing will continue to occur until further notice.

- Any resident who is suspicious of COVID infection will be placed on quarantine until further instructions are received from their physician. These residents will be cared for by staff using full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Fresh air should be encouraged through regular opening of windows, doors and air purifiers where and when appropriate.
- CT State Travel restrictions remain in place and travelers should quarantine to 10 days unless they test PCR negative upon return.
- All staff with any signs/ symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or close contact with high-risk individuals, are prohibited from entering the workplace.
- Resident and family FaceTime sessions, as well as, weekly Zoom calls with this writer will continue until further notice.

Changes effective March 9th.

- Programs where masks are consistently used may occur without social distancing. Social distanced programs (inconsistent mask use and 6 foot distancing) are also occurring. Programs, including those with paid entertainment, will be increasing overall and residents are being encouraged to socialize.
- All contractors, service providers and delivery personnel (not just essential healthcare workers) who adhere to our guidelines may enter.
- Mail should be delivered promptly and without “mail jail”.
- Resident out trips with family MAY occur. A member of our Wellness team will Risk Assess* the out trip to determine if an observational status is required. Residents; therefore, may be exempted from in-room observational status in low-risk cases.
- Although MOST family visits will take place in designated areas between the hours of 9:00 am - 5:00 pm in either The Cafe’ or Evergreen room 129, there are exceptions to this as follows:
 - 1 Compassionate care and end-of-life visitation These occur inside resident rooms and without regard to the aforementioned visitation hours. These visits are authorized by this writer or The Wellness Director and are intended for end-of-life comfort, residents who have a change of condition, residents in need of physical/ psychological support, new move ins and move out room clearing.
 - 2 Low-risk room visits These can occur in-room (not in common areas unless a designated visitation room) and are Risk Assessed and approved by Wellness
- The outdoor visitation tent will be removed on April 1st.

** Risk Assessment involves a member of the Wellness team considering the level of infectious transmission risk associated with the out trip, move-in or visit. Factors such as the resident’s vaccination status, the visitor’s vaccination testing/ vaccination status (or natural disease recovery in the past 90 days) and the likelihood of exposure to others are all used to determine the infection control risk of the out trip/visit. Proof of vaccination or negative test results is required when applicable.*

Pre-Pandemic activities and programming schedules are almost fully restored. Note that all live music and other professionals must comply with our infection control measures such as pre-entry screening, regular testing, social distancing and strict face covering.

Our COVID-19 vaccination clinic has been successfully completed. New residents and/or employees will be vaccinated on an outpatient basis with coordination from The Department of Public Health (DPH).

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.

Hoping this message finds you healthy, happy and well informed.

With Warmest Regards,

Ronald V. Bucci
Senior Executive Director

Staying Connected

a) Facetime Sessions with your loved one

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4ca4a82ba2fbc61-thegreens>

Or call 203-761-1191 or email Carmela or Brianna at
ctornatore@thegreensatcannondale.com.

B) Zoom Info Sessions - Join via desktop/mobile device or dial in **each Tuesday at 2:00 pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159586119>

Meeting ID: 831 5958 6119

Community Vaccination

Connecticut has initiated vaccination for phase 1B for all Connecticut residents over 55 years old. If you are a senior or know one who is not part of group 1-A, please make note of the following sign up information:

- Signing up is best accomplished through the Vaccine Management Portal (VAMS). They are taking appointments on-line or via phone for the >55 age group now.
- Please see the website and/or phone number below for details. Other providers, such as Hartford Healthcare are also scheduling vaccine and more eligible groups.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/covid-19%20vaccinations>

CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Assist Line at 877-918-2224. The line will take calls on Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will offer a call-back option when all contact specialists are busy serving other callers. The team will aim to return calls as soon as possible, with the goal of same-day response.