



March 30, 2021

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

COVID-19 statistics among our local community are showing an increase in infection and The Cannondale Campus has experienced solid infection control. The Connecticut positivity and hospitalization rates are currently 3.88 % and 434, respectively. The Fairfield County positivity rate is 5.3%. Local and State Health officials inform us that much of the new COVID-19 infection is occurring among the young adults. The disproportionate number of young adult infection seems related to the vaccine rollout strategy (oldest and most frail vaccinated first) and; in some cases, lack of adherence to infection control measures among younger adults.

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

Our current focus on public health measures and vaccination remains our best strategy. With nearly all residents and only a small proportion of staff unvaccinated, we are vigilant in pursuing "cleanup" vaccination among partially vaccinated staff and new staff / residents. To this end, we have made arrangements with Griffin Health to administer the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to these groups – our first visit is anticipated within a week or so. We shall continue our existing infection control restrictions including the more liberalized visitation practice described in my update from March 9th (repeated below).

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.

Neither compassionate care, nor, low-risk visits are allowed in common areas such as our dining room or within a large group activity. Low-risk visit exemptions require vaccination documentation from these visitors.

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:

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.*

Our programming calendar continues to grow including a return of live music and other paid entertainers. These professionals must comply with our infection control measures such as pre-entry screening, regular testing, social distancing and strict face covering.

As a Pandemic related reality, we have found that many of our residents continue to remain in their rooms despite the re-introduction of many previously popular programs. As such, we are now (daily if needed) personally inviting and encouraging our residents to attend programs – this is best accomplished room to room. I have attached our current activity programming calendar for your reference – please feel free to call Carmela or Sue should you have any questions or concerns.

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.