

Date: November 20, 2020
To: Residents, Families, and Friends
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

Testing Expanded for Thanksgiving

Testing hours on Monday, November 23rd is being extended to accommodate caregivers, families/visitors and team members so they are able to be tested and receive results more easily prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We are also doing this as a service to our community---so anyone who wants to be tested before the holiday has the opportunity early in the week.

Monday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (caregivers, families/visitors, team members)

**Tuesday: 8:30 am – 6:00 pm (regular hours caregivers, team members, visitors)
AND residents who plan to have Thanksgiving visitor(s)**

Wednesday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm (regular hours for residents)

Please remember to contact the residents' Resident Services Coordinator if planning to be tested on Tuesday due to the holiday. You may also contact Dawn Staton, Director of Support Services, at 203-772-1816 x 140 with any questions.

Positive COVID-19 Tests

At this time, approximately 119 CT nursing homes and 54 assisted livings are experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks. Over this past week we have had 3 new positive cases among caregivers, team members and visitors and no new resident positives. Each positive case has been detected early and we have had no community spread within The Towers. We have 2 residents who have had significant exposures to COVID-19 positive caregivers/families and are on quarantine at this time.

Our testing procedures are working.

Folks, please know that we are doing everything possible to reduce the likeliness of the virus entering and spreading within The Towers. It is so important to be extra cautious right now and to continue following our recommendations carefully. If we continue on our current path, we will weather this storm ok and get to the other side. Keep being vigilant for all our sakes.

Thanksgiving Protocols (Reminder)

We are strongly requesting that every potential visitor on Thanksgiving do the following:

1. Be extra careful from now through Thanksgiving Day to limit time and exposure to others beyond members of their immediate household,
2. Be tested just prior to Thanksgiving. Stop by The Towers on Monday, November 23rd (10a to 4p) or on Tuesday, November 24th (8:30a to 6p). For anyone who tests on Wednesday, November 25th, it is very unlikely that we will have all test results by Thanksgiving Day. Therefore, visitors must test on the 23rd or 24th.
3. Test results will be updated on our "Cleared to Enter" list as soon as they come in from the lab. If a visitor wants to know if they are on the list, the visitor may call our Front Desk in the early evening of Wednesday, November 25th to check.
4. On Thanksgiving Day, please wear a mask, sanitize your hands, have your temperature taken and answer our screening questions accurately.
5. Proceed directly to the apartment (only two people in the elevator at a time) and remain in the apartment throughout the visit.
6. Keep masks on while visiting (resident mask on too).
7. Thanksgiving Dinner will be delivered starting at 1p.
8. Remain 6 feet apart while unmasked and enjoying the meal. Consider opening a window if it is warm enough to do so.
9. Remain in your apartment until the end of the visit and return to our entrance while masked. Please do not visit other residents or enter other apartments.

Leaving The Towers for Thanksgiving

Sharing a meal without masks on is considered higher risk behavior for contracting the virus. So if you choose to leave The Towers campus for Thanksgiving we strongly expect you to self-isolate in apartments upon your return for 14 days and be tested on schedule. Please **DO NOT** attend any program during those 14 days for the safety of our residents who choose not to leave our campus and want to participate in our programs.

Assisted Living Services Agency at The Towers

At this time, we have settled the agreement with Utopia Assisted Living Services, Inc. to be our on-site Assisted Living Services Agency. Members of the teams from Masonicare, Utopia and The Towers have been meeting to discuss the coordination of the transition. A plan has been developed and is starting to be implemented. All residents, and/or their responsible parties, who receive support services through the Assisted Living Services program will be contacted by members of the Utopia team to set up times to meet and begin the paperwork for the switch. Utopia will be setting up times for anyone from the Masonicare team members stationed at The Towers to meet with Utopia if there is interest in transiting their employ to Utopia and remaining at The Towers.

Staying Strong, Staying Safe and Staying Connected! - Gus