

Date: December 23, 2020
To: Residents, Families, and Friends
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

Remember to Stay 1 “GUS” Apart

Remember, COVID-19 cases are on the rise all around us and we expect it to be even greater after the holidays this week and next.

Flattening the Holiday Curve – The Towers’ Suspension of In-Person Programs New Visitor Ban Effective December 28th

Effective December 28th at 8:00am: The Towers will suspend all in-person programs and reinstate our Visitor Ban for approximately 3 full weeks. This will be in an effort to proactively “flatten the holiday curve” and prevent the potential spread of the virus due to the holidays. Unfortunately, this means no in-person gatherings until January 18th. Please listen to Dean’s daily message for the programs that will be available through remote methods like Towers TV, telephone and Zoom meet-ups.

Informal groups gathering in our common areas will be lovingly asked to “move along” by our Front Desk Officers. Please respect their efforts to keep us safe during these weeks so that we can get past this potentially risky time.

Vaccine for COVID-19

The approval of two new vaccines means that we now have more “tools in our toolbox” to combat the threat of the virus. The Pfizer vaccine has been chosen by the CT Department of Public Health for nursing homes/care center and assisted livings. This week and next the priority focus is on vaccinating the thousands of individuals living or working in Connecticut’s 200+ nursing homes. The next priority is assisted livings (us), so we are drafting our plans on how to roll out the vaccine at The Towers.

Backup Plans for Residents’ Caregivers

With the surge in COVID cases, we are seeing an increase in the number of caregivers who are testing positive (e.g. hired private duty aides). Unfortunately, some private duty aides or even aides provided through a home care agency, may not have substitute caregivers when the primary aide tests positive.

We are suggesting that each family who hires privately or through an agency, consider making a backup plan so that needed care services are consistently provided to their loved one. We suggest that a family member be considered a backup as needed. This may be challenging for some families, but it is best to think through options prior to being in a situation where care is needed and the primary caregiver is unavailable for a period of time. Also, being tested weekly will guarantee that you have a solid plan in place if

ever needed. Please remember that a negative COVID-19 test results needs to be provided to our front desk. We provide regular testing onsite Mondays (10a to 11a), Tuesdays (8:30a to 6p) and Wednesdays (8:30a to 4p).

In addition, moving forward, if your loved one's caregiver tests positive, we contact whomever is listed as the responsible party. This is done so that they have a chance to make arrangements quickly with the appropriate agency and/or private duty aides to guarantee that the needs of your loved one are met. Please remember that an aide who tests positive cannot reenter the building for 14 days and has provided us with at least two negative test results before returning to providing care. If Murphy Medical is the testing provider, they have established protocols regarding retesting to ensure that the caregiver is no longer considered contagious.

Happy Holidays



Thanks to our own Ruthie Greenblatt, our residents enjoyed the lighting of the Menorah each night of Hanukkah. Everyone received treats to bring back to their apartments. Thank you for celebrating with us!

To my friends who celebrate Christmas, Merry Christmas! I hope you enjoy the spirit of the season while remaining safe. To my friends who honor Kwanzaa, Happy Kwanzaa and also be safe!

To all my dear friends at The Towers, I wish each of you a Healthy and Happier 2021.

Staying Strong, Staying Safe and Staying Connected! -- Gus