

Date: February 11, 2021  
To: Residents, Families, and Friends  
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

### **Vaccinations**

Our second round of vaccinations were a great success. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Walgreens provided 664 shots. Of those, 133 were first shots to our residents, caregivers and team members. Eleven residents received their first shots after declining the vaccination last month. When they receive their second shots on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have helped protect approximately 88% of our residents. Since the vaccine is mandated for all individuals providing services at The Towers and at some point will require a vaccination card to enter The Towers, we reasonably estimate that we will reach 94 percent of our community being vaccinated. This will allow us to achieve a “herd immunity” at The Towers. This week I spoke with a few of our colleagues from around the country to see how they were doing with the vaccinations. They reported that many of their communities struggled to reach 60%. Once again folks, great job!!!

### **Last Vaccine Clinic**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be our last vaccine clinic on-site for the foreseeable future. Walgreens will be in the Dining Room with one or two pharmacists to offer second shots. Based on the number of first shots given last week, and a few people who missed receiving their second shots, we anticipate providing 153 second shots on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you were one of the individuals who missed your second shot, you can still receive your shot here. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting the second shot. It is better to get the second shot late than to not get it at all.



### **NO Vaccine Clinic February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Some people received an appointment card with February 24<sup>th</sup> as the date for your second vaccination. We will NOT have the clinic on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Vaccinations Going Forward**

Through our relationship with Cornell Scott Hill Medical Center, new staff, caregivers and residents can receive the vaccination shots at their 400 Columbus Street location.

Please contact 203-530-3000 for further details. Mention that you are from The Towers.

## **COVID-19 Testing at The Towers**

Currently, our plan remains focused on achieving and maintaining a “herd immunity bubble” at The Towers. Per the direction of the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), we will continue testing all team members and caregivers weekly. At this time, this requirement remains in place through at least the end of April. Though I fully understand and respect that many of us who have received our second vaccine shots are ready to stop testing, testing remains very important. Only through frequent testing will we know if we start to see the virus within The Towers.



Please remember, the vaccine does not stop us from contracting the virus, just like the influenza shot does not stop us from getting the “flu.” The vaccine helps our bodies fight the infection and win against the virus. The vaccine makes most of the cases less severe and less deadly. So, regular testing allows us to monitor any possible cases and take any needed actions to protect our residents as best as possible. There will come a time when the virus spreads a bit within The Towers. However, for those who chose to be vaccinated, you have a much better chance of having mild symptoms and remaining fairly healthy.

At this time we do not know if we will continue the COVID-19 testing into May or adjust to a different model and schedule for testing. I will let you know once when we are closer to May.

## **Vaccination Mandate**

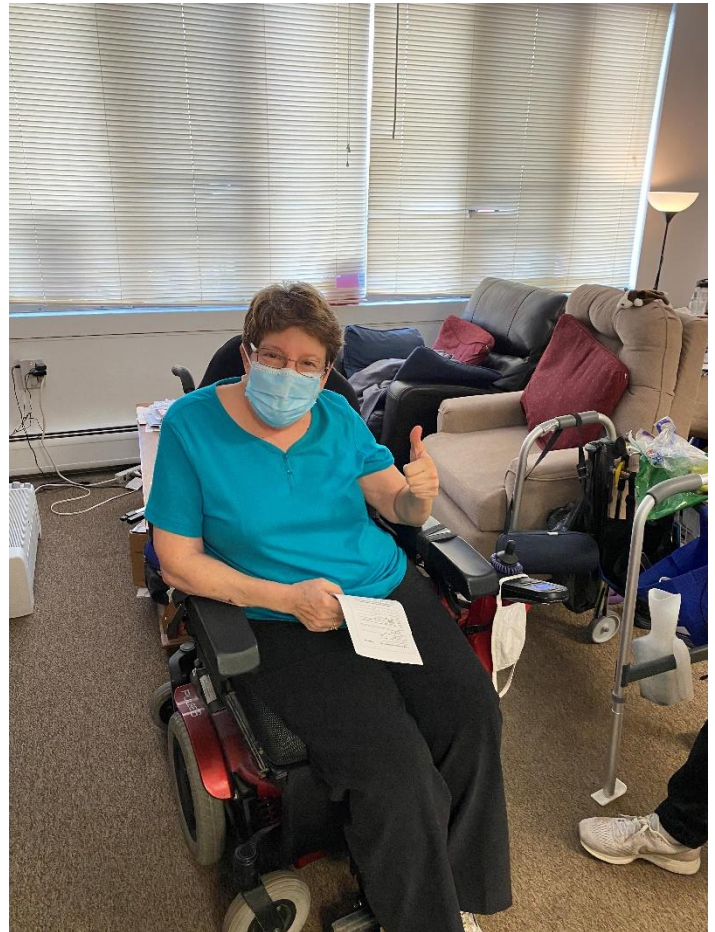
As we continue testing, the deadline to comply with the our vaccine mandate for all individuals paid to provide services within The Towers (regardless of employer) is moving from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Access to The Towers

We will continue to follow the DPH's directions requiring all staff and caregivers to be tested weekly. Therefore, we will continue our current practice of requiring documentation of negative COVID-19 tests administered within the prior 10 days to enter The Towers.

Even if you have a vaccination card documenting the two vaccination dates, **you still need to be tested per DPH.** This is the only way we can assure that we are in compliance with the state's requirements.

In May, it is possible that we will switch from requiring testing to requiring testing or documentation of vaccinations. Again, I will let you know when we know more.



### Murphy Medical Associates' Other Sites Change Days of Testing:

The Murphy team asked us to share this:

6 Rock Street  
West Haven (next to Jimmie's Restaurant)

or 1423 Chapel Street  
New Haven

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9a-3p  
CLOSED Wednesday and Fridays

**CURRENTLY CLOSED**  
Due to flood damage

I am very proud of our community. We have been taking every step possible to keep ourselves and those we love safe. Thank you for sticking with it!

### Question for You

What does it mean when Gus or a team members looks at you and points to his or her nose? Answer: It means we can see your button nose and to cover it up! 😊

**Remember to Stay a "GUS" apart!!**

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