

Date: March 17, 2021  
To: Residents, Families, and Friends  
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

### **Vaccines**

Just a follow up—I received the final numbers from Walgreens. We vaccinated 681 people at The Towers. Bravo folks!

### **COVID Positive Cases**

Over the past few weeks we have had either zero or one positive case per week. However, I want to remind everyone that even though most of us are now vaccinated, it is still possible to contract COVID-19. Case in point...last week we had one resident who was vaccinated test positive for COVID. This resident is doing well.

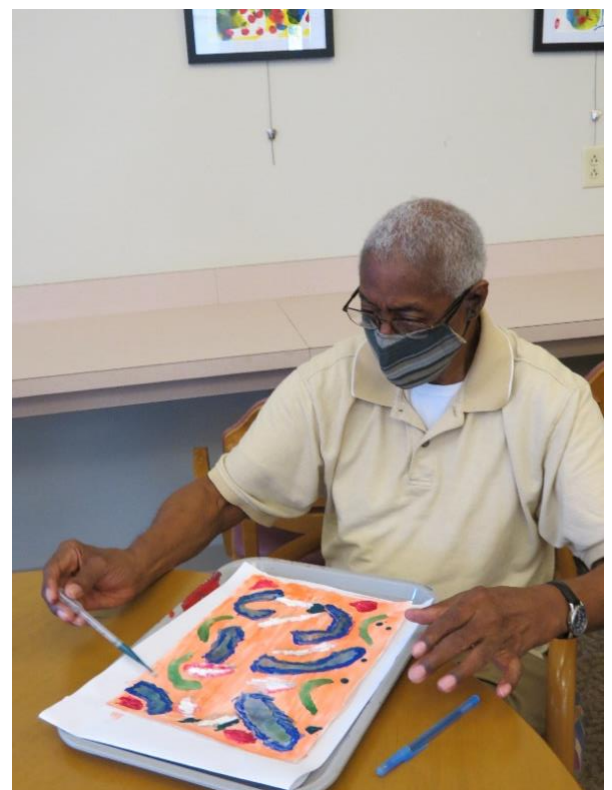
Just like when we receive the “flu” shot, we can still catch influenza even though we were vaccinated. However, because of the vaccine we are less likely to catch the “flu” and if we do, our symptoms are milder and not as dangerous because our bodies were prepared by the vaccine to better fight the virus. So remember folks, we are still likely to have cases of COVID-19 at The Towers. We need to remain careful. Wear our masks and keep a “GUS” apart!

One more COVID related point - our weekly testing does pick up the COVID variants. So far, we have had no variant cases.

### **Convenience Store Reopens April 13th**

Our Convenience Store has been closed and offering delivery only for almost a year! I’m happy to share that our store will reopen with a whole new look! Jesse and his team have updated the store with all new machines, display cabinets, a new floor and fresh paint.

The store will be run by volunteers similar to how our Vine Gift Shoppe is operated now. Volunteers will assist shoppers with their items and completing their “self-checkout.” You will be surprised by how easy it is to pick up the items you need, or crave, and pay with a touch of a card or your index finger!



New store hours will be posted depending on the availability of our wonderful volunteers. Sarah has several resident volunteers already lined-up to give some hours to the store. The more volunteers we have, the more hours the store will be open. So, if you are interested in volunteering for a couple hours, please contact Sarah at ext. 410. If we have volunteers on weekends, the store can reopen on weekends too, so please consider volunteering. And yes, there is plenty of ice cream in the store!

### **Convenience Store Deliveries**

Our temporary system for delivering convenience store purchases to our residents' apartments will continue to the end of April. As of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, residents and/or caregivers will need to swing by the store to pick up the items they would like to purchase. As always, masks will need to be worn and we ask that only a few residents enter the store at a time—to keep a “GUS” apart and to let everyone get reacquainted with the space and the new check-out system.

### **Café Reopens May 4<sup>th</sup> (-ish)**

I know we are all eagerly waiting for our Café to reopen for breakfast and lunch. We are continuing to wait until the first week of May. I want to continue monitoring how we do with our “herd immunity” and watch the results of our weekly testing throughout March and April. We are thinking May 4<sup>th</sup> could be the day—but have not set the actual date. We want to avoid reopening the café early then end up being forced to close it again due to any increase in new positive COVID cases. So, hang in there folks. We are moving forward “slowly and steadily.” The Café will not have seats for everyone in the beginning. We will start with only a few tables at a time then slowly increase the number of tables/chairs as we monitor our progress. It might mean that you have to adjust the time when you come to the Café. The Dining Room will likely reopen in early June for dinners.



## **Tower East Meeting Room**

Contrary to what I wrote in my last message, we will be opening a small part of the Tower East Meeting Room for Dean to run our programs. Our team has worked out a plan to use a small part of that room while the other space is used for storage and as a distanced space for a few team members to use for their breaks. The room may not look too “pretty” right now—but it will be nice to use it again.

## **Testing**

No changes in testing protocols. We will be testing the same as we have been, at least through the end of April. As we approach May, I’ll let you know our plan.

## **Entry into The Towers**

No changes in our building entry protocols through at least the end of April. We will continue requiring a negative COVID-19 test administered within the prior 10 days regardless of vaccination status. We are waiting for updated requirements from CT Department of Public Health before we will change this practice. As we approach May, I’ll let you know our plan.

## **Rumors are True.....**

Yes, the rumors are true.... My mom, Jane Keach, has moved into The Towers. I am very grateful to every person who made this possible and welcomed her with open arms (still staying a “GUS” apart). I know for sure that she’ll not being staying a “GUS” apart from her own Gus. I guess it’s a mother’s right.... 😊



**Remember folks, I’m proud of you—and proud of what we have accomplished together. We are...**

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