

Date: April 13, 2021  
To: Residents, Families, and Friends  
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

### Testing

No changes in testing protocols. We will be following the same testing schedule as we have been at least through the end of the Governor's current Executive Order which ends on May 20<sup>th</sup>. If any changes are issued by the Connecticut Department of Public Health as we approach May 20<sup>th</sup>, we will keep you informed of our plan.

### Vaccines Are Available

It is important for us to maintain our "herd immunity" as best we can here at The Towers. In an effort to do so, we have worked with Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center to provide shots to anyone eligible per Connecticut's most current requirements. They are offering a Moderna vaccine clinic at Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center this Thursday, April 15 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. The exact location will be confirmed once you are registered.

To make an appointment, please email Jessica Arroyo [jarroyo@cornellscott.org](mailto:jarroyo@cornellscott.org).

Please include the following information in your email:

Name, Date of Birth, Phone Number, Insurance Information (if you do not have insurance, Cornell Scott Hill Medical Center can still provide the vaccine). After your information is received and processed you will be contacted regarding your vaccination time. There are a limited number of doses available, so contact Jessica as soon as possible.



## COVID Positive “Breakthrough” Cases

As I shared with you many memorandums ago, it is still possible to contract COVID-19 after being fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated is considered 14 days after the second shot (if taking Pfizer or Moderna). These cases now have a name, “Breakthrough Cases.”

“Breakthrough Cases” are expected to occur because the vaccine is not 100% effective. Thankfully, these cases are rare and signs/symptoms are less severe. So far, the fatalities from these cases are extremely rare. The individuals who have passed away from the virus after being fully vaccinated have tended to be very frail and have several other health challenges.



We are continually monitoring our weekly test results to determine if any cases are “Breakthrough Cases” or from the various strains. So far we have detected one breakthrough case. That person is doing well without complications.

## Convenience Store (C-Store) Reopens Today (April 13<sup>th</sup>)

Our Convenience Store (C-Store) has been updated with all new machines, display cabinets and a new look. The store will be open extended hours and on weekends. We are able to do this thanks to a group of wonderful volunteers. Thank you!! Volunteers have been trained on how to assist shoppers with the selections and the self-scanning register. Check it out! If I can scan my own items, anyone can!

If you are interested in volunteering in our store, please contact Sarah at ext. 410.

## C-Store Deliveries Ending

April 30<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of C-Store deliveries to apartments. As we prepare to carefully reopen our café and dining rooms over the next couple months, our team will shift their roles from C-Store deliveries to helping diners. So, come check out the store. As always, masks must 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 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Over the past few weeks we have had zero positive cases of COVID-19. With this great news we feel comfortable reopening our Café on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for breakfast and lunch. Throughout the month of May, the Café will not have enough seats for everyone to dine together and the number of seats at tables will be limited to avoid crowds at tables. We will start with only four tables with four seats each. Over time we will slowly increase the number of tables/chairs as we monitor our progress and our weekly testing for COVID-19. If we have any indication of COVID-19 cases related to our dining, we will reclose our Café immediately.

We are working on the details of how we can best offer seats to residents. We will send out a follow up message on how we plan to organize this. We ask that all residents understand that seats may not be available when you would like to dine and we ask that residents understand that we will give seating preference to residents who haven't yet dined in the Café over residents who dine in the Café frequently. So, please remain understanding and gracious to your neighbors as we work through this transition. The Dining Room will likely reopen in June for dinners.

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

