

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

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

### **Resident Testing**

**As of May 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will no longer test our residents for COVID-19 on a routine basis. We will only offer testing to residents who show signs or symptoms of the virus on a case-by-case basis. We ask that if you are feeling sick with flu-like symptoms, please remain in your apartment and contact your Resident Services Coordinator (RSC).

### **New Protocols for COVID-19 Testing and Entering The Towers**

After careful review of COVID-19 information released by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the adjustments necessary to follow the requirements set by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), we have developed new protocols to take effect on **Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**.

In addition, the CDC and DPH's new requirements allow us to reduce our weekly testing requirement to only those "staff" (Towers, Morrison, Utopia, other agencies and private aides) who have not been vaccinated. As I have shared with you, we reached a 93% vaccination rate. Among the 7% not vaccinated are a few individuals who were not vaccinated due to their personal medical reasons.

To comply with DPH, we had to create two screening protocols for any non-resident individuals entering The Towers. Unfortunately, these two protocols are necessary, depending on the results of the COVID-19 test results we receive each week.

The two protocols are "**Hybrid Screening**" and "**Testing-Only Screening.**"

- "**Hybrid Screening**" – hopefully begins on Tuesday, May 25th

This requires:

documentation of a negative COVID-19 test administered within the prior 10 days

**OR**

documentation of vaccinations completed at least 14 days prior to entry into The Towers

Completion is based on the manufacturer of the vaccine administered:

- Pfizer and Moderna (two doses)
- Johnson and Johnson (one dose)

However, based on DPH requirements, if we receive one positive test result, we must test all individuals (excluding residents). In this case we would revert back to our current screening protocol “Testing-Only Screening.”

- **“Testing-Only Screening”**

This is the same practice we have been doing for almost a year.

Any non-resident wanting to enter our building, she/he must be on our “Cleared to Enter” list or show documentation of a negative COVID-19 test administered within the prior 10 days.

Vaccination status would not matter while “Testing-Only Screening.”

### **Fully Vaccinated Individuals**

Therefore, if you have been fully vaccinated, you no longer need to be tested weekly **UNLESS** we receive a positive test among those individuals who have not been vaccinated.

If we have a positive test, we are required to restart testing of all non-resident individuals. So, we will quickly offer testing on-site within a day or two of the positive test result(s) and we will re-implement the “Testing-Only Screening” protocol to enter our building. This would remain in effect until we have two weeks without a single positive test. If this becomes the case, we will inform you via these memorandums.

Naturally, we are concerned about having to transition back and forth between these two screening protocols as we know it could cause confusion that we all want to avoid. However, we must do our best to comply with the DPH’s requirements.

Therefore, **IF** we have no positive test results this week and none next, on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, we will implement our “Hybrid Screening.” Unfortunately, we have not had more than one week without a single positive test result so far.

In summary, as of May 25<sup>th</sup>, residents will no longer be tested weekly. They will only be tested if they report experiencing signs or symptoms of the virus to the RSCs. Also, as of May 25<sup>th</sup>, we will implement our “Hybrid Screening” protocol, **IF** we have no positive tests this week or next. If we do, we will delay implementing the “Hybrid Screening” until we have two full weeks without a positive case.

## Visitors

Just to clarify, visitors are welcome to come into The Towers as long as they follow the protocols above.

## Effectiveness of Vaccines

Earlier last week the CDC released a study examining the real-world effectiveness of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. This study looked at hospitalization rates among people over the age of 65 and found that those who were fully vaccinated were 94% less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than were those who are unvaccinated.

## Masks

Just a reminder, masks still need to be worn in our common areas. Please continue to wear your masks even as you travel through our halls. Outside, please stay a “Half-a-GUS” apart and enjoy showing off your smiles.

## Café Reopening May 17<sup>th</sup>

We look forward to Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, when our café reopens. Please watch for new information related to how our café will operate going forward in the very near future.

And lastly, thank you so much to our donor who made this special treat possible.

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

