

Date: May 18, 2021  
To: Residents, Families, and Friends  
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

### **Masks**

Last week I was just as excited as you to learn of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s lifting of the facial mask recommendation for fully vaccinated people. Since then more clarifications have come out that are applicable to our community. Our Governor has announced some updates to take effect tomorrow. Per his update, unvaccinated people must continue to wear masks.

In addition, masks are still required in healthcare facilities and housing sites that serve vulnerable populations -- that's us folks. So, per the Governor's Executive Order, and counter to the CDCs announcement last week, **starting tomorrow we are all now required to continue wearing our masks while indoors, whether we were vaccinated or not.**

We have always implemented the higher of precautions. This has served us very well and I'm proud of what we have accomplished together. So, let us continue to wear our masks for the time being. We are all ready to shed them, but we should continue to be careful for now.

Personally, I was planning to continue wearing my mask for a bit longer anyway. I do feel much safer here at The Towers than I do anywhere else because I know that the majority of our community is fully vaccinated.

As you all know, I am fully vaccinated, so I'll leave it up to you and our very efficient rumor network to guess why I planned to continue wearing my mask. Is it because I have not seen a barber in over a year and I have been doing a lousy job trimming my own beard? Is it because my beard is now so white and I want to avoid looking like Santa? Maybe it is because I need to figure out what would be the best color to dye it? I'll let you decide.

### **Testing Residents**

This is the last week of routine testing of our residents for COVID-19. As of Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, we will only test residents who show signs/symptoms of the virus. If you do experience any "flu-like" symptoms, please remain in your apartment and contact your Resident Services Coordinator (RSC).

## Protocols for Entering The Towers

If we have no new positive COVID-19 test results this week, we will convert our protocols to our “Hybrid Screening” as of Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. This means that for *anyone other than residents* to enter our building, all individuals need to show is their vaccination cards and a photo ID or a negative COVID-19 test administered within the prior 10 days.

If we do have a new positive test result this week, we will continue to use our “Testing-Only Screening” protocol for *anyone other than residents* for at least two more weeks. We will send out a memo on Friday after all this week’s test results are in to let you know which screening protocol will be in place on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please also note that children between 3 and 12 years of age may visit us. However, they still need to show proof of a negative COVID test in order to enter the building. Babies through 2 years of age can enter without a test.

## Testing Schedule Changes – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Starting May 24<sup>th</sup>, Murphy Medical Associates will be adjusting their schedule for on-site testing of anyone needing to enter the building who is not vaccinated or if we have a positive test result. The schedule will be as follows:

**Mondays: 8a to 1p**  
**and**  
**Tuesdays: 1p to 6p**

As always, our residents are welcome to enter our building regardless of their vaccination or test status.

**Staying Strong,  
Staying Safe,  
Staying Connected**

**Gus**

