

Date: June 22, 2021
To: Residents, Families, and Friends
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

We are adjusting our mask wearing and testing protocols to match new guidance from our state. A few of these protocols were released a few weeks ago, however, we have remained a bit more cautious as we have been watching our weekly testing. Our testing of unvaccinated people over the past few weeks have helped us identify 1 new case of COVID-19 among this group and one “breakthrough” case (i.e. a vaccinated person contracted COVID-19). Each time we have conducted our “contact tracing” we have been fortunate that all residents to these individuals have been fully vaccinated. We have monitored our residents closely and found that no one experienced signs or symptoms of the virus. All have remained healthy, thank G-D.

**Congrats Marguerite
Thank You for keeping our store running!**

Therefore, we believe that our practices are working. Since we reached 93% of our community being vaccinated, and are still doing our best to vaccinate all new residents and team members, we believe that the risk to our residents and team members is significantly low enough for us to change some of our protocols.

However, our “Hybrid” protocol for entering our building (i.e. show a vaccination card or a negative COVID-19 test) is a key piece of our efforts to reduce the chance of exposure. Therefore, it will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

On-Site Testing Ending Tuesday, June 29th

At this time, we have only 16 people still testing weekly. Therefore, Murphy Medical Associates will conclude their last on-site testing next week. However, please be aware we are still mandating that persons who are not vaccinated need to show a negative COVID-19 test result within the past 10 days

Final day of testing: Tuesday, June 29th: 8:30a to 5:30p

There will be no testing available on-site on Monday, June 28th.



Testing Remains Available Off-Site

Murphy Medical Associates New Haven office will be available for those needing to show a negative COVID-19 test. Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm for testing. Their address is: 1423 Chapel Street Suite 1A, New Haven, CT 06511.

Murphy's protocols for registering for testing:

- Register online at www.coronatestct.com
- (Must Select TOWERS STAFF/TOWERS RESIDENT)
- Once you submit the form you will then receive an email stating that the form was received by them



- In the email there will be a link that will allow you to schedule an appointment using the acuity scheduling system (this will show all available times each day)
- Once you select a time and date Murphy's scheduling team will schedule the visit and send reminders of the appointment.

You can call 203-658-6051 for assistance.

Happy 100th Birthday

Sylvia!!



Masks

We need to find the balance between loosening up our protocols and taking precautions to keep our most vulnerable neighbors safe.

As a congregate living setting and an assisted living we are required to implement the following protocols:

Effective Wednesday, June 23rd, please practice the following:

- **Masks Required:** Anytime “healthcare or other supportive services are being provided.” Therefore, anytime assistance is given to our residents related to their “activities of daily living” (e.g. dressing, bathing, medication assistance) a caregiver (paid or unpaid) must wear a mask. This is for all aides, family caregivers and housekeepers/maintenance team members when in resident apartments.
- **Masks NOT Required:** during regular interactions (e.g. traveling through our hallways, using elevators, attending gatherings/programs, staffing Front Desk, conducting common area cleaning/maintenance tasks, eating in our dining spaces).



Additional Information from the State of Connecticut

The following is information published by our state. Please contact Dawn Owens at extension 140 if you have any questions related to how The Towers is following these requirements.

Fully Vaccinated People

- **DO NOT NEED TO QUARANTINE** from work, school, or away from other people if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and do not have any symptoms themselves.
- **DO NOT NEED TO GET TESTED** routinely (e.g., as part of their work), before or after travel, or when they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and do not have any symptoms themselves.

Unvaccinated People

- Are required to **WEAR A MASK INDOORS.**
- Should continue to **WEAR A MASK OUTDOORS** when they are in a crowd, at a large event, or in a public place where keeping their distance from others is difficult.
- Should **CONTINUE TO QUARANTINE** from work, school, and away from other people if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Should **CONTINUE TO GET TESTED** when they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, before and after they travel, and if they are part of a screening testing program (for example, as part of their work).



Staying Strong, Staying Safe and Staying Connected -- Gus