



August 1, 2022

Dear Still Hopes Apartment, Concierge, and Cottage Residents,

Many of you have likely noticed the upward trend in COVID cases during the summer months. While we are seeing an uptick in cases amongst staff and residents here at Still Hopes, the Community Level of COVID in Lexington County is also classified as “High” based on COVID cases and hospitalizations. I thought now would be a good time to provide some guidance and a bit of a refresher on the current COVID policies here at Still Hopes.

Masking: While we are not requiring residents to wear masks on the Independent Living side of campus, the COVID numbers have reached a concerning level and we are, once again, strongly encouraging the use of masks when you are outside your residence. We feel as though this decision should ultimately be left up to you, but we do ask that you are proactive and protect yourself and fellow residents the best you can. Many folks who have contracted COVID recently were surprised because they thought it was “just a cold”. Tacey Gohean, our Director of Community Services, has observed that many of the incidents in which residents believed they “just had a cold” have turned out to actually be COVID positive illnesses. So please be mindful of this fact. What has not changed is the requirement that you wear a mask outside of your residence if you are not “Up To Date”. Up To Date means that you have had the primary series of your chosen COVID vaccine, plus any boosters for which you are eligible. If you are over 55 and have not received the additional booster shot(s), you are not considered “Up To Date”.

Chapel, Community Services, and Life Engagement: Your Chaplain, Doug Gray, along with your Director of Community Services, Tacey Gohean, and Director of Life Engagement, Michelle Rabon, are taking a case-by-case approach to mask requirements for their activities, events, and services. If it is believed that there is not adequate room to space folks out, then masks are required for those specific events at this time. Also, we are requiring residents to wear a mask while in our Main Street and Greenway salons as well as for Sunday’s service in the Chapel. Masks are available in locations where they are required.

Wellness: Taylor Hall, your Director of Wellness, sent out a memo recently detailing the mask requirements for the Wellness Center. Still Hopes residents and Community Members alike are asked to provide documentation that they are “Up To Date” in order to utilize the Wellness Center pool and participate in water group classes. However, Taylor has been strongly encouraging mask usage for regular classes as well, given the uptick in cases. Taylor has even offered masks to folks who want them, and he says this practice has been gratefully received.

Please know that I understand we are all dealing with COVID fatigue right now. We are all tired of thinking about COVID and talking about it. However, that doesn’t mean we can ignore what is going on in our community and the world around us. Please continue to exercise good caution and good common sense in your daily living habits and activities. If you are going to be in a confined space with a lot of people, please strongly consider wearing a mask, even if you are not at Still Hopes. Socially distance as best you can and wash your hands often. If this year mirrors last year’s trend, the number of COVID cases will hopefully decline as we come out of the summer months. This certainly seems to me to be shifting from a pandemic to an endemic, and we are all doing our best to flex as things change. I deeply care about each of you, and I appreciate your good work with me, and your Still Hopes family, as we navigate the ever changing world around us.

Sincerely,

Danny Sanford, Still Hopes CEO