



STILL HOPES

Episcopal Retirement Community

Dear Still Hopes Staff, Apartment, Cottage, and Concierge Residents,

Over the weekend, one of our apartment/cottage residents tested positive for COVID, with some symptoms. This resident was already fully vaccinated against the virus. The resident recently took a trip with family. On this trip, a fully vaccinated close relative was coughing and felt a bit under the weather, but nothing very noticeable or seemingly serious. This family member went to the doctor upon return from the family trip, and tested positive for COVID. That, coupled with our resident beginning to feel a bit under the weather themselves, led to our resident asking Tacey for a COVID test.

Obviously, the family member of our resident believed they had only a summer cold or allergies, since they were fully vaccinated. Also, our resident thought the same thing and felt a false sense of safety as they also were fully vaccinated. Still, our resident learned on Saturday that they do indeed have COVID. They let Tacey know that they returned from the trip, to Still Hopes, on Thursday, attended two group events with other residents (one a large event with food and beverage served), when they needed to have been at home, self-isolating, due to their recent trip with someone who showed symptoms that matched with the COVID virus' symptoms.

I tell you all this, because it is extremely important for each of us, staff, residents, family and other visitors, to keep a vigilant eye open for being exposed to ANY signs or symptoms that could be virus related, even when someone is "certain" that it is something other than COVID, but they have a symptom of some sort that matches the virus. They may be fully vaccinated and still give you the virus. You may be fully vaccinated and still contract the virus. I do know and understand that the resident in this case was extremely confident that they had not been exposed to the virus, but with hindsight we all also now know that they, in fact, were exposed.

The new Delta variant of this virus is extremely contagious. We need to understand that, and we need to take all possible steps to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our friends and neighbors. Thus, I remind us all once again that if you come into contact with a person who has ANY signs or symptoms that have even a remote possibility of being the virus, that you isolate yourself immediately, and let Tacey Gohean know that you may have been exposed. She will help you through the appropriate actions and get you what you need as we work with you to assure that you get all the help and care you need both while you wait it out to see if you have the virus, and also during your bout of illness should it turn out that you do have it.

**With all of this being said, I am letting you know that all apartment, cottage, and concierge residents will be tested for COVID starting tomorrow, Tuesday, August 10. All of the details will be on the back of this sheet, along with other important notes. We feel testing this week is the most thorough way to help ensure everyone's safety since the resident who tested positive did have a high amount of contact with other residents. It is highly recommended that residents both vaccinated and unvaccinated wear masks when outside of their apartment.**

Remember that 10% of those hospitalized with the virus are fully vaccinated individuals. Still, they ended up in the hospital at a time when only the sickest and most dire are being admitted. This is serious for you and for our Still Hopes Family. Again, I plead that if you have not been vaccinated, you take the steps to do so now. Why? Well, think about it, 90% of those hospitalized with the virus are the folks who have not taken the vaccine. The odds are in your favor with the vaccine. It is purely that simple. I hope you know everything we do and ask here at Still Hopes is with the best interest of our residents at heart.

Sincerely,

Danny Sanford, CEO

## **COVID Testing for all Apartment, Cottage, and Concierge residents**

**Testing Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

**Testing Time: 9 am – 4 pm**

**Testing Location: Keenan Event Center**

*Please do all that you can to get tested on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. A secondary testing date will be listed below, but this is meant for folks who truly can't make it on August 10<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Notes**

Please enter the Keenan Center from the hallway next to the Accounting office. You will also exit in this hallway. Please do not go through the Atrium, as that area will be set up for buffet service.

Be prepared to fill out paperwork before you are tested. You do not need to bring your insurance card or vaccination card.

**Please wear a mask to testing.**

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**Second Testing Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021**

**Second Testing Time: 9 am – 12 pm**

**Second Testing Location: Keenan Event Center**

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### **Other Notes**

All activities have been cancelled, effective immediately. Activities will be cancelled this week and next week. However, Chapel services will still continue. If you do attend Chapel, please wear a mask, socially distance, and make sure you do not have any COVID symptoms.

All a la carte services in the Palmetto Dining Room are currently suspended for at least two weeks. Buffet service will still continue during this time.

All group exercise classes are cancelled for the next two weeks.

The Main Street Salon, the Art Studio and the Shoppe on Main will remain open. However, masks are required upon entry.

If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Parker at (803) 739-5002 or [sparker@stillhopes.org](mailto:sparker@stillhopes.org).