



THE HALLMARK

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20 August 2021

Dear Residents/Responsible Parties,

This week's COVID update brings mixed reviews. To date, thirteen (13) independent living residents have reported positive COVID tests with another five (5) quarantining due to contact tracing. Of those 13, three have been admitted to our COVID unit, currently set up in Assisted Living. On the bright side, we have had no NEW resident positive cases in the past three (3) days and two of the three residents currently in the COVID unit will be released to their apartments by Monday. We have experienced two additional positive employee cases this week, both in dining services, while two staff members who had been out recuperating were able to return to work.

Meanwhile, outside The Hallmark, the surge in cases continues to grow. We urge each of you to take appropriate precautions when going out and/or when interacting with individuals from outside The Hallmark. I have heard of several instances where positive Hallmark residents have gone out into the community and cannot emphasize enough the carelessness this implies, whether to you individually, The Hallmark specifically, or the community at large. Short of a medical emergency, almost all other goods and services can be delivered to The Hallmark, either by our staff or through outside third parties.

On the vaccination front, President Biden announced yesterday he would be supporting an interim rule mandating that all LTC facilities receiving Medicare/Medicaid funding REQUIRE vaccination for staff members. While this rule is still being promulgated, The Hallmark continues to analyze how this might affect our workforce, which areas of our campus this rule affects, and how best to respond.

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Many of you have asked about booster shots for the vaccine. The FDA, CDC, Health Department, and other organizations are still working through the final details of approving the booster of the Pfizer vaccine for the general public. Further, there have been no clear plans laid out for distribution of the booster once it is released. The Hallmark continues to monitor this situation and intends to offer the booster to our residents/staff once these hurdles have been remedied. Our most likely course of action will be to partner with Walgreens as we did earlier in the year, offering the booster onsite. Once the particulars are ironed out, we will be sending out additional communication(s) detailing the plan for providing the booster.

As always, we appreciate your willingness to work with us as we try to keep The Hallmark safe. We recognize that these are challenging times, whether it be socialization, physical or mental health, and/or access to people and things we hold dear; and will continue to do everything we can to make this time be as seamless and safe as possible.

Sincerely,



Harold Ermshar
Executive Director