



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Residents & Staff
FROM: John Dwyer, President/CEO
RE: Covenant Woods guidelines for masking – Independent Living only
DATE: May 26, 2021

As you may remember, Governor Northam said in his May 14 announcement that more reductions in masking and distancing mandates may be forthcoming on or before May 28. There is also the possibility there will be no further announcement and the Governor’s office will expect the public to infer most restrictions are lifted. If the latter is the case, it makes our decision making a bit more difficult. As a result, we are communicating with our local health department for guidance. Nonetheless, we expect substantial changes for the IL area of our campus relative to indoor dining and possibly other reductions in limits on capacity in common areas, etc., to be forthcoming. We may also see relaxed focus on unvaccinated individuals given that the COVID-19 positivity rate, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to decrease substantially across the state and county. All of this remains tentative at this time for our IL setting.

As mentioned in Tuesday coffee yesterday, we are working to be as prepared as possible for major changes. Much behind the scenes work must be done to implement anticipated changes such as moving tables and chairs into the various dining venues, scheduling additional staff for covering the higher volume in seated dining, etc. Presently, we anticipate any additional changes to policies and protocols for IL will to be implemented no sooner than Monday, June 7. If the reduced restrictions are as significant as we anticipate, it will take a couple of weeks to affect all changes. For example, we would anticipate increasing to pre-COVID occupancy levels in Fireside on June 7 but we would not restart the Vistas menu and separation of Fireside and Vistas to our pre-COVID format until the following Monday.

We are excited, as I know you are as well, to finally be at this point in the process of moving past the pandemic. My purpose here is to make sure everyone understands the timeline we expect to follow should the changes we anticipate come to fruition in the coming days. I appreciate your understanding and patience very much as we work to plan for additional changes. We will update you next week as soon as we know for sure the nature of the new guidance.

JED/km