

August 18, 2021

Dear Residents:

While we are not back to the near daily memos you were receiving last year, we do have some COVID related updates for you.

Mandatory Vaccinations

RiverWoods will be requiring all employees to be fully vaccinated by October 15, 2021. That memo was distributed to our staff teams yesterday. We will provide proper exemptions for people with documented medical or religious issues. While we know this may exacerbate some staffing issues in the short term we fully believe this to be the right thing to do for you, for our team members, and for our state and nation. Again, this may impact staffing (particularly in dining, housekeeping, or healthcare) that we will work to refill, but your community may need to implement some temporary operational adjustments to how we provide services. Your Executive Director will communicate this more directly in the weeks to come.

Additional Vaccine Dose and Booster Shots

Third vaccine doses have been authorized for certain severely immunocompromised people. If you think you fall into this category, please contact your Nurse Practitioner. We are reading various reports that suggest the government may authorize booster shots for all people eight months post second shot. For most of us this would fall in the October time frame. If these boosters are approved we will do everything possible to establish vaccine clinics onsite as we did over the winter, for both staff and residents.

Masks

It is our ongoing recommendation to wear your mask when you are outside of our community and among people whose vaccination status is unknown to you.

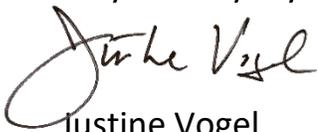
Visitors

Beginning October 15, 2021, we will also require all Independent Living visitors to be fully vaccinated. Please let your friends and family know that they will not be allowed to visit if they have not been fully vaccinated. This will, for now, exclude all visitors under the age of 12.

The cases in New Hampshire are rising, and with schools reopening we can expect this trend to continue for a while. While this is disturbing, it is important to remember that vaccinated people are very well protected from serious illness and hospitalization. We will get through this next hurdle, it's just going to be tricky for a while longer. The current state of the COVID situation will impact our operations, and while I cannot tell you exactly how, I am sure we will see continued challenges in staffing in various areas which will impact the way services have traditionally been delivered.

One of our Board members told me that she recently saw an advertisement for Cape Cod that said, "the most important thing you will pack this year is patience." I know many of us used up our patience reserves over the past year, but we are going to have to find more. We can do this, together. That is what community is all about.

Stay healthy my friends!



Justine Vogel
TRWG CEO