

Memorandum

May 19, 2023

To: Residents, Families and Dunwoody Staff

From: Brandon Jolly
Director of Health Services



Re: Changes to COVID-related Policies and Procedures

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff,

The Federal Government ended the COVID Public Health Emergency on MAY 11, 2023, and new guidance related to managing Covid has recently been released. As such, effective immediately, Dunwoody is making the following changes:

- 1) Masks are now voluntary for employees and visitors, including the Care Center, unless you are symptomatic or had recent close contact with a COVID-positive person. Staff who wish to continue wearing a mask may do so. The facility retains the right to require masks to be worn if a situation warrants.
- 2) Well-fitting masks (surgical, KN95 or N95) are required for staff, visitors and residents who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, and masks must be worn for 10 days after exposure.
- 3) As per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, all current Dunwoody staff, as well as contractors providing close or direct care to Care Center residents, are required to have the COVID-19 vaccine or the bi-valent booster or an approved medical or religious exemption. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required for new Care Center admissions, visitors or contractors. Regardless of vaccine status, new admissions to the Care Center will not be isolated upon admission unless they are COVID-positive or symptomatic.
- 4) Dunwoody will COVID test all new admissions to Skilled Nursing on day 1 and day 5 of their stay.
- 5) Dunwoody will no longer require Care Center residents who are out of the facility for 24 -hours or more to be tested for COVID-19 upon their return to the facility unless the resident is being readmitted from the hospital.
- 6) Employees who test COVID-positive will be permitted to return to work on day 8 after a negative test on day 7.
- 7) Residential Living residents who are tested and found to be COVID-positive will be permitted to come out of quarantine on the 11th day after they test positive so long as they are not symptomatic. Residential Living residents will be required to self-monitor for symptoms and report any symptoms to Health and Wellness.

- 8) The Care Center will follow each resident's primary care physician for recommendations related to the need for additional COVID boosters.
- 9) Green and yellow Covid alert signage currently in use in the Care Center will be removed. Only red stop signs will remain in use.
- 10) Staff, visitors and any other persons entering Dunwoody will continue to participate in COVID screening; however, temperatures are no longer a part of the screening process.
- 11) Please note that the flu vaccine is mandatory for Dunwoody employees. Dunwoody retains the right to reinstitute mandatory boosters in the future should conditions warrant and may be as soon as Fall 2023.
- 12) Residential Living residents and staff should obtain rapid COVID test kits to keep on hand for independent testing. Testing for exposure will no longer be done through the Health & Wellness Department.

We ask that residents and families please speak with the resident's nurse if you have questions related to these changes. Staff with questions should speak with their department director. We hope that you share in our excitement as we take these new steps to find the new "normal".

Sincerely,

Brandon Jolly