



At home in Camden

June 8, 2021

TO: Residents and Family Members

FROM: Loriman Looke, Executive Director and Administrator

In response to more people being vaccinated against COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have provided updated guidance for Quarry Hill and other communities of its kind.

## **Masking**

### **Inside Anderson Inn:**

Group Activities: Residents are no longer required to mask during group activities so long as all in attendance, including both residents and care team members, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If at least one individual isn't fully vaccinated, then all must continue to mask and those not fully vaccinated should physically distance.

Common Areas/Hallways: Masking is still required for residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, when out and about in the hallways and common areas of the Anderson Inn. Please note that Quarry Hill care team members, contractors and essential visitors must always mask when inside the Inn, unless alone in a room with the door closed, or dining in a designated break room while physically distanced from others.

Scheduled Visits with Family and Friends: If the resident and his/her visitors have been fully vaccinated, then masking and physically distancing are recommended, but not required, so long as they meet in a private setting away from others, such as one of Quarry Hill's designated visitor areas. If some participants have been fully vaccinated, while others have not, or if any participant's vaccination status is unknown, all should mask and physically distance to minimize the likelihood of exposure to the virus. Visitors must mask and physically distance from care team members and other residents and visitors who are not part of their group.

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### **Outside on Quarry Hill Grounds:**

When outdoors on campus and distanced from others, no one need mask. We do ask that masks be worn when approaching or leaving the Anderson Inn (under the entry canopy), as the likelihood of coming within six feet of another person increases.

Residents who are visiting outside with friends or family are asked to follow the same safety criteria as outlined above for indoor visits. Should a resident who is not fully vaccinated go offsite for a visit, he/she must quarantine upon return.

How will residents know who among them is or isn't vaccinated? Only if the person they're wondering about openly shares that information. Please remember that privacy law prohibits Quarry Hill care team members from disclosing anyone's vaccination status to other people—no exceptions.

### **Surveillance Testing**

The criteria for surveillance testing of care team members, essential visitors and contractors has changed. Individuals who have been fully vaccinated are no longer required to participate in routine surveillance testing, but surveillance testing is required for those who are not fully vaccinated. The frequency of such testing is determined by the current COVID-19 positivity rate in Knox County. Currently, the Maine CDC classifies Knox County as a Low Transmission Rate county, which means care team members, essential visitors and contractors who are not fully vaccinated must be tested monthly. Should transmission rates increase locally, driving Knox County into a higher category, testing would revert to at least twice monthly.

### **Vaccination Opportunities at Quarry Hill**

Guardian Pharmacy of Maine, which conducted a number of on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics, has agreed to return to Quarry Hill each month to provide the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine to Quarry Hill care team members and residents who wish to be inoculated against the virus. Please reach out to Heather Long at 207-301-6198 if you you'd like to arrange to receive the shot.

Following is a list of the most common questions that I and other Quarry Hill care team members have received in recent weeks. While the rules and restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continuously change and evolve, my hope is to shed light on some of the most frequently asked questions, based on the most recent guidance we've received. Please do email me at [llooke@pbmc.org](mailto:llooke@pbmc.org), or call me at 207-301-6275, with any additional questions.



## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID-19 Restrictions at the Anderson Inn

June 8, 2021

**1. Why aren't family and friends allowed to visit residents in their apartments if everyone involved is fully vaccinated?**

Friends and family are welcome to visit indoors with loved ones of the Anderson Inn by appointment in designated visitor areas. Guidance from CMS and DHHS seeks to limit the number of individuals in the building at any given time, minimize movement within the building and interactions with others, regardless of vaccination status. Our current policy on visitors is designed to comply with this guidance.

**2. When residents are visiting with family or friends outdoors on Quarry Hill grounds, must all parties be masked, even if all are vaccinated?**

No. If all participants have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, then masking is not required (but is recommended) during both outdoor and indoor visits. If the vaccination status of any individual(s) participating in the visit is unknown, then all participants are asked to mask, and the individual(s) not fully vaccinated should physically distance.

**3. As a resident, do I still need to mask when outside my apartment and when receiving care inside my apartment?**

For clarity about masking when outside your apartment, please refer to the masking criteria stated in the attached memo. When receiving direct care within close proximity of a caregiver, residents are asked to mask.

**4. Can two non-cohabitating residents ride the elevator together if both have been fully vaccinated?**

Yes.

**5. Can Morning Coffee resume for independent apartment residents who are fully vaccinated?**

Yes, so long as participants comply with the guidance in the attached memo regarding masking during activities. Several other activities for apartment residents have also resumed, with various rules and procedures in place to ensure compliance with current COVID guidance. Please consult your monthly Activities Calendar and the latest edition of the newsletter to find out what's happening and within what parameters.

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**6. Is it okay for a vaccinated resident to visit with another vaccinated resident who resides in a different part of the Inn?**

Yes, so long as both participants feel well, are not exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and follow all other recommended guidelines stated in the attached memo. Visits with residents of the Gardens, Courtyard and Terraces should be arranged in advance. Call 301-6280 for Gardens visits and 301-6282 for Courtyard and Terraces visits.

**7. When is it considered “essential” for someone from outside the Inn to come to my apartment to provide assistance to me?**

“Essential” support may include such things as assistance with medication management, activities of daily living (i.e. bathing, dressing) and short-term assistance in managing finances.

**8. When will in-person dining for independent and Terraces apartment residents resume?**

Resuming meals in our dining rooms, with people sitting and conversing in close proximity, is the ultimate goal. However, achieving this goal in compliance with current CMS and DHHS COVID guidance raises complex issues that extend into every aspect of our dining program, from staffing to the surface dimensions of our dining tables. These concerns are then further complicated by the need for two sets of criteria, based on residents’ vaccination status. Rest assured, Quarry Hill’s leadership team is actively planning for the return of in-person communal dining. We ask for your continued patience as we work through the details. We’ll keep you informed as plans evolve.

**9. When the dining room does open, will cottage residents be allowed to come for dinner and/or brunch?**

At this time the Anderson Inn remains closed to the general public, except in the form of scheduled visits in designated visitor areas and so-called “essential” visits. In relation to COVID-19 restrictions, cottage residents are considered members of the general public. Until these guidelines change, we must continue to exclude cottage residents from dining or other programming at Anderson Inn.