



At home in Camden

September 30, 2021

TO: Residents and Family Members

FROM: Loriman Looke, Executive Director and Administrator

Now more than 18 months into the pandemic, the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant is driving an increase in transmission rates both locally and nationally. In response, regulations and guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have once again changed.

In view of Knox County's current high level of community transmission, I would like to stress the following:

- Masking, with nose and mouth fully covered, is always required in the common areas of the Anderson Inn. Upon entering the Inn, everyone must sanitize their hands (dispensers are located in the Main Lobby and throughout the building). Visitors and care team members should put on a fresh mask each time they visit or start a new work shift.
- Residents, when participating in indoor group activities, it is strongly recommended that everyone in attendance mask and physically distance, regardless of vaccination status.
- Likewise, residents and their guests, when visiting behind closed doors within the Inn, should remain masked and physically distanced, even if everyone in attendance is fully vaccinated.
- Family members, if you're visiting a loved one who lives in the Inn, please remain in the resident's private setting—either in the resident's room or apartment (so long as it's not a semi-private room or companion suite) or in one of Quarry Hill's designated visitor areas, as instructed. Please do not congregate in a common area, including the hallways and dining rooms, or socialize with others during your time in the Inn.
- Inn residents who are out of the building for 24 hours or more, if not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon return.
- Due to the need to mask and allow adequate, six-foot distancing, we must now limit van transportation to two riders per trip. This means that planned outings that would involve more than

(more)

two riders are canceled, and shopping trips will be limited to two riders at a time. To accommodate everyone who wants to ride the shopping van, our driver will offer three departure times each Tuesday. Residents will need to sign up in advance for the departure time they want.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized COVID-19 booster shots for those Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least six months ago.

To be eligible, one must meet one of the following criteria:

- 65 years and older
- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions, who work in high-risk settings, or who live in high-risk settings

Please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html> to learn more.

Most who live and work at Quarry Hill received the Moderna vaccine, which the FDA has not yet authorized for booster shots. If/when Moderna boosters are approved, Quarry Hill is hoping to coordinate with Guardian Pharmacy to host an onsite vaccination clinic that will offer boosters for both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for Inn and cottage residents. Residents who received the Pfizer vaccine, qualify for a booster and do not wish to wait for an onsite clinic, may elect to receive their booster at an off-site pharmacy. We will provide more detailed information to those residents and/or family members.

As previously communicated, COVID-19 vaccination will be required for all Quarry Hill care team members, whether employed or contracted. Enforcement of this state mandate has been extended to October 28, 2021.

Having to re-tighten some of the COVID safety rules that we had only just begun to relax is unfortunate and frustrating. Excited by the promise of the vaccines, many of us—not just at Quarry Hill but nationwide—now feel discouraged as Delta clouds the immediate horizon. From the start, recovery from the effects of the pandemic has been a two-steps-forward-one-step-back proposition, and we must try to be patient as we work through the current step back.

You are welcome to reach out to me with specific questions or concerns by calling me on my direct line, 207-301-6275, or via email at llooke@pbmc.org. Remember, too, that COVID-19 updates may also be found by visiting our website at <https://www.quarryhill.org/covid-19-response> or by calling our COVID-19 phone line at 207-301-6300.