



This message is going to all associates, and to residents and family members who have opted to receive email communications.

Dear Residents, Family Members and Associates,

We are now entering yet another new phase: a post-COVID-19 vaccine environment. This chapter, just like all those we've dealt with over the past year, requires turning the "dimmer switch" ever so slightly in how we address any changes to community operations.

This new phase comes with, as expected, new guidance from the CDC. **While the headline of the guidance released earlier this week may say one thing, how it applies to those who live and work at an Asbury community is another.** In light of that, we have to remember that overall, less than 10% of the United States population is fully vaccinated. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to facilitate the administration of the vaccine to so many individuals, but we are not yet near the ultimate solution to this challenge, which is what scientists call "herd immunization."

Today I want to share with you what the CDC has released and how we are addressing the guidelines. I also want to say that I recognize that many of you are experiencing pandemic fatigue and are restless and ready to move back to our pre-pandemic reality. As an organization, however, we must balance this against what our top priority has always been, and will be: the health, safety and wellbeing of those who live and work at an Asbury community.

The recent CDC update pertaining to individuals who have been fully

vaccinated is a statement that is very general in nature. It does not apply directly to individuals working or living in senior living communities and health care environments. We are reviewing the modifications carefully to make the most careful and judicious adjustments while adhering to the CDC guidelines for health care communities – just as we have throughout the pandemic.

While Asbury has had extraordinary success with the majority of residents receiving full vaccination, we still have a sizable percentage of associates who have not completed their vaccination. Additionally, we have new residents joining our campuses along with new associates on a regular basis. Our objective is to provide the broadest measure of safety and protection to the entirety of each campus at all levels of community living.

The CDC's full list of recommendations, as of March 8, for when you've been fully vaccinated can be [found here](#). Please view the following information for Asbury residents and associates, including community guidelines for all levels of care:

- According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick and being hospitalized. We're still learning, however, how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19 and how long they are effective. **After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.**
- COVID-19 testing remains an important tool to continue to identify possible cases and minimize transmission of the virus. ***We currently are monitoring COVID-19 test results for the presence of the recently identified variant strains of the virus. There are documented cases of individuals developing COVID-19 illnesses well after receiving their second vaccine dose.*** Most of these new infections have been associated with exposure to one of the variant strains. ***Maintaining the transmission-based precautions; wearing a mask, physical distancing and hand***

hygiene remain the primary barriers to the variant strains.

- The definition of “fully vaccinated” is 2 weeks post-completion of vaccination. For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, this means 2 weeks after the 2nd dose; for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine it means 2 weeks after the single dose.
- Travel screening and recommendations are unchanged in the CDC update, therefore all current restrictions and requirements remain in place.
- **Important notes for all those who live or work at an Asbury community, including Residential Living and all levels of care:**
 - **All precautions in public spaces outside your homes on and off campus are expected to remain in place due to the possibility of ongoing transmission within the community.** Examples of public spaces include libraries, dining venues, pools, bowling and group sports/games, etc.
 - Those who are fully vaccinated and within 3 months of vaccination and are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine after an exposure to a known person with COVID-19 or when in a high risk environment. ***(The screening tool will be adjusted as more CDC guidance comes out for the health care environment.)***
 - It is safe to visit with one additional household (maybe a neighbor or a friend) if you know they are fully vaccinated and the others are as well or the others are not high risk ([please click here](#) for more info from the CDC.) Beyond the one additional household, measures such as masking and visiting outdoors are still recommended.
- **Reminder for Associates:**

- The updated guidelines state that you should follow recommendations from your workplace, which would include our current screening process and return-to-work guidelines.

We have additional information, FAQs and more on our dedicated Vaccine Information page [here](#).

Remember: Every action we take matters – from getting the vaccine to following health and safety protocols – and I know that we can count on each other!

Sincerely,



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