



THE VILLAGE AT
AUGSBURG
A National Lutheran Community

Date: January 8, 2021
To: Augsburg Assisted Living Residents and Families
From: Tina Minio, Independent Living Manager
Subject: Path Forward Community Update

As we enter 2021, I hope everyone is filled with a renewed sense of hope for a better year than last. With many of Augsburg's residents and team members vaccinated, we are certainly moving in a positive direction and to the next step of defeating the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while this is a light at the end of the tunnel, we are still urging strict compliance with infection control practices.

As a reminder, the vaccine takes two doses before it is effective, and after the second dose, it is not effective for an additional 14 to 21 days. This means it is still possible to contract COVID-19 for some time after receiving the vaccine, making it important to follow all established protocols.

The team at Augsburg understands more than anything, we all want to be able to gather in-person and connect again, however, we all must understand that the vaccine does not give us the immediate protection to do so. Additionally, as an organization, we must also continue to adhere to the guidelines Governor Hogan and Baltimore County have put in place.

With all of the above in mind, independent living protocols until further notice include:

- Everyone must continue to wear a mask when you are outside of your apartment. If you have visitors to your apartment, everyone must be in masks.
- All visitors to the building will continue to be screened and temperature checked for the virus.
- Group activities will be limited to ten people.
- Dining will remain open at a much lower percentage of occupancy.
- Any food provided for activities will be on a "to-go" basis. The reason we are doing this is that while residents are gathered, masks remain on (the reason we are ok to have masks off in the dining room is because we have set the room in a way that maintains social distancing and the dining staff is there to disinfect between seatings).
- Our team is committed to providing more activities and options for gathering to fill the void of not being together. Dining is also exploring special menus.
- If we have any positive cases of COVID-19 in independent living residents or team members, per the Department of Health, we will have to return to outbreak status.

I cannot stress enough how much I understand that it is frustrating to still be fighting this virus and the restrictions that come with it. My hope is that as more people are vaccinated, we can ease restrictions more and more as we shoot for a return to normal. For the time being, our goal is to remain cautious and keep independent living out of outbreak status so you can enjoy in-person dining and small group activities.

We continue to thank you for your patience and support.

MEMORANDUM