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**WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY WEEKLY SUMMARY – JUNE 10, 2021 – 3 P.M.**

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**John Burns**

*COVID-19 and Vaccination Updates*

The positivity rate for Virginia dropped to 2.0%, the lowest point since March 16, 2020, when the data was first reported. Our two-week look back rate in Henrico has dropped to 2.2%. The trends are very positive with today's rate for Henrico at 1.3%.

Our campus vaccination rates have remained roughly the same, around 75% of staff and 98.5% of residents. The primary reasons staff vaccination rates have not increased significantly are a reluctance to get vaccinated due to fear, health-related concerns or religious objections. It also takes new staff a few weeks to be fully vaccinated after they start working.

Yesterday, we announced to employees that we are updating our vaccination policies. Effective September 1, 2021, all employees will be required to be fully vaccinated unless they have health or religious reasons that preclude them from being vaccinated. We are allowing this period of time so that employees who are not already vaccinated will have time to talk to their healthcare providers and seek additional education on the vaccine.

As of July 1, fully vaccinated employees will be allowed to unmask in the building unless they are in a healthcare area or the Child Development Center. Masks will still be required for unvaccinated staff and for all those, including residents, who are working, visiting or passing through the Child Development Center and healthcare areas such as Mary Morton Parsons Health Center, Rehab, Assisted Living and the Clinic. These are Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Virginia Department of Education regulations that we all must adhere to at this time.

Some employees, even if they are fully vaccinated, may not be comfortable unmasking. Please respect their choice.

As a reminder, Independent Living residents are required to wear a mask in the Rehab area because it is a regulated healthcare space. If you insist on not wearing a mask, please let your Rehab therapist or social worker know, and you can be referred to our home health team for Rehab in your home instead of the outpatient therapy gym.

We are preparing to modify the screening process for Independent Living visitors. We recognize that screening Independent Living visitors is a burden for residents and staff. We are making plans to modify this process and will update you on the details and timing. Please be patient as we work to ensure that everyone who enters Parsons Health Center or Assisted Living is screened. We must stay compliant with the regulations and keep residents safe.

*Bionic Ionization*

There is an exciting change coming as we implement Bipolar Ionization across campus. Bipolar Ionization is a process used in heating and cooling systems that provides cleaner breathing air within facilities. Bipolar

Ionization purifies the air using a process that targets airborne pollutants. Ionization happens when atoms and molecules are charged by either taking away or adding a bond to create a positive or negative result. In the case of Bipolar Ionization, energy is generated to absorb and neutralize pollutants. Ionization is effective in managing disease control and kills viruses in buildings. It also lowers carbon dioxide in the air. The ions travel through the duct system helping it stay clean as well.

We are working with a local company to install Bipolar Ionization devices in our primary air handling systems throughout the community. The installation of this equipment happens behind the scenes. Residents should experience minimal or no downtime on the heating and air conditioning systems. This technology is common practice in hospitals and hotels. We are excited to implement it here at Westminster Canterbury.

#### *Package Lockers*

Construction of our new package locker spaces is underway. These will launch in July. Jess Goldberg, Courtesy Services Manager, met with Resident Floor Representatives today. Next week, all residents of the Tower, Courtyard and Garden are invited to attend one of two info sessions about package lockers: Monday, June 14, at 10 a.m. on the Roof Terrace, or Wednesday, June 16, at 2 p.m. in the Cochrane Commons. The details of these meetings are also listed in *The Tales*. We will have more updates about package lockers as we get closer to our start date in early July.

#### **Tom Henning**

#### *Apartment renovations*

Residents have been entering apartment remodel projects that are under construction. We respectfully ask that you do not enter these apartments for your safety and protection. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### *Tower Lounges*

Tower Lounges are being used by residents for floor meetings and gatherings. For more information on how to operate the TVs and DVD players, contact the Resident Help Line at ext. 4026, and Information Technology can provide training to your floor or group. Printed guides will also be available soon.

#### *Promenade*

Renovation of the Promenade is beginning, and preparations are underway. A temporary partition will be constructed beginning Monday, June 14. The construction fencing for the Ellipse will be laid out and installed later this month. Kathleen continues to relocate plants from the Ellipse to other areas on campus.

#### *Parking Deck*

The initial site layout of the Parking Deck is beginning. Some surveyors will be onsite this week marking utilities for test digging that will be performed next week. This will require some parking spaces in the Parsons Health Center Lot to be blocked off for investigative work. Work on the additional temporary lot for employees will begin soon. We will add lighting to the temporary lot and a pedestrian sidewalk so employees can safely access the campus.

#### *Dog Park*

The Dog Park construction continues with site paver and sod work underway this week. The new space should be ready for our dogs next week.

#### *Courtyard Power Washing and Exterior Work*

Courtyard power washing continues and should be completed by the end of June. Window washing will begin once this is complete. A contractor will be flying a drone to inspect the exterior finishes for the next couple of weeks.

### *Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*

We are installing electric vehicle charging stations in a few locations on campus, including the West Tower Entrance, near the Center Entrance and the Courtyard East Lot. Preliminary conduit work will begin next week. We will share more updates on the timing of the installation soon. The new Parking Deck will also include charging stations.

### **David Curtis**

#### *Pastoral Care Updates*

On Sunday, June 13, at 4 p.m., please join Dr. William Blake and Nancy Bain in the Sanctuary or on TV970 for a joyous and joy-filled hymn sing. This will be the first hymn sing since December 2019. Residents are required to be masked while singing.

#### *Psalm 95:1-2*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

#### *Prayer*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

*(Book of Common Prayer, p. 833)*