
WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY WEEKLY SUMMARY – AUGUST 19, 2021 – 3 P.M.

John Burns

COVID-19 Updates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) positivity rate for Henrico County is currently 8.2%, a slight decrease from last week. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the level of community transmission in our area is high.

Seven employees have tested positive for COVID-19 since the end of July despite being fully vaccinated. Five have returned to work. Two remain in quarantine at home.

Last night, a fully vaccinated resident of the Tower Eighth Floor tested positive for COVID-19 via a rapid test and is symptomatic. This resident is in quarantine in their apartment. Contact tracing is ongoing. Everyone who has been in contact with this individual has been contacted. Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals who are exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 are not required to quarantine, but they are required to wear a mask and be tested. All Tower Eighth Floor residents will be tested on Monday, August 23.

Public areas and elevators are being sanitized. Please follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention. Please wear a mask around others. While we are not requiring it for residents, it is encouraged, especially when off campus in the broader community. We encourage those attending the performance in the Sara Belle November Theater this evening to wear a mask. We will continue with an abundance of caution so our community and programming can remain open. Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer. Stay home if you do not feel well and contact the Clinic.

Residents are also reminded that there are additional requirements when visiting the healthcare areas of our campus, including Parsons Health Center, Avalon, The Gables and Monticello, Rehab and the Clinic. You must always wear a mask in these areas. It is imperative to sign the visitation logs on the floor you are visiting, an important step for contact tracing.

COVID-19 Vaccination

The deadline for Westminster Canterbury employees to be fully vaccinated is September 1. This week, 86% of employees are fully vaccinated. Starting next week, employees and contractors who are fully vaccinated will begin wearing a gray Westminster Canterbury Richmond badge along with their name badge.

Yesterday, it was announced that all nursing homes must require vaccination for employees or face losing Medicare and Medicaid funding. National rates for nursing home staff vaccination are approximately 60%. Westminster Canterbury's vaccination rate for all healthcare personnel is at 96% currently, with a September 1 deadline.

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the plan for COVID-19 booster shots. Research has concluded that a booster shot will be needed to maximize protection against COVID-19. Their plan is to offer booster shots for all Americans beginning the week of September 20 and starting eight months after an individual's second dose. The guidelines acknowledge that residents of long-term care facilities

were among those who received the vaccines early in the distribution process. We do not have further details on how Westminster Canterbury will receive this booster shot, but we will update you as we learn more.

Vibrancy! and Other Construction Updates

Progress is being made with the Promenade renovation and preparations for the new parking deck. Next week, on the Ellipse, crews will remove the Todd Greenhouse, the tool shed and trees next to the greenhouse. A crane for the tree removal will arrive early next week. A construction road will be installed leading to the Promenade project area.

Willow Oak - Watch the video to see images.

To prepare for construction, some trees were removed from the Ellipse in June. We are working to preserve wood from our beloved Willow Oak tree so it can be repurposed in the construction and renovations in the Promenade and other areas. Our architects have inspiration for where they hope to incorporate the wood in the Promenade renovation, possibly in future countertops and tables. There are many variables that will impact where the wood can be used.

There are beautiful slabs of wood that were recovered from the tree. Karl Harkness is an artist based in Richmond who is experienced at crafting recovered wood into beautiful pieces. His shop is Iron Oak on Mayo Island in Richmond. Some of the machines in the shop are relics from Richmond's past, including a 1912 jointer that was in the Miller and Rhodes woodshop, and a 1944 wood planer built in Italy and used by the Navy at the end of WW2.

Keepsakes from the Willow Oak have been created for residents to pick up from the Tower and Center Front Desks. Thank you to resident woodworker Neill Nelson who cut discs from the branches of the tree and Rebecca Hatch and Gayle Haglund who created the tag celebrating the lessons we can learn from trees.

Glendon Kemp

Parking Updates for Employees

Thank you for your understanding as the Parsons Health Center parking lot closed this week to prepare for construction of the new parking deck. The Security team has been available to guide and direct visitors and employees as the changes go into place.

For employees, please use the walking path from the temporary parking lot to the sidewalk that leads to the crosswalk. Please do not walk in the driveway from the existing parking lot to the temporary parking lot. Use the designated walkway. Please follow the vehicle traffic pattern when exiting the temporary lot into the employee lot. To reduce confusion, enhancements will be added, including striping, signage and a speed bump.

For residents, please avoid walking and biking in the Employee Parking Lots for your safety due to the amount of traffic in this area.

Logan Augustine

Pastoral Care

A central feature of life at Westminster Canterbury Richmond is that we, as a faith-based institution, are a community grounded in prayer. There are several opportunities each week for worship and prayer. We gather for worship on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This Sunday, Rev. Art Thomas will lead our service. Nancy Bain will play the piano. Next Thursday, Rev. Will Stanley from St. Stephen's will lead a service of Holy Communion.

Residents also gather for Evening Prayer on Mondays through Fridays at 4:45 p.m. in the Chapel, and we gather on Wednesdays at noon in the Sanctuary to pray for our residents, our staff and the construction workers during this time of expansion. You are invited to join us at any of these times of prayer.

From the Talmud

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

Prayer by Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry

Eternal God, hear our prayer for the peoples of Afghanistan. There is a profound humanitarian crisis. Countless people, mostly women and children, are now fleeing and vulnerable. The lives of many are now endangered. The hopes of many are forgone. Send your Spirit, Lord, to rally the resolve of the nations of the earth to find pathways to save human lives, protect human rights and to resolve the hardships of those seeking refuge, asylum and safety. Hear our prayer for the peoples of Afghanistan.

We pray also for the people of Haiti, for the suffering and displacement they've experienced from this earthquake, as well as from other national crises. We pray for their safety, and for those who have lost loved ones, homes, jobs and other securities. Hear our prayer for the peoples of Haiti.

Grant them knowledge of your peace in this most troubling time, and stir the people of your world to action as we are able, in caring for our brothers and sisters around the world.

This we pray in your name, Amen.