



## Important Updates: State Re-opening and Socialization Options

5/14/20

### State of Connecticut Update

State re-opening guidelines are following a three-stage plan, with phase 1 beginning May 20<sup>th</sup> being:

- Restaurants (outdoor only, no bar areas)
- Remaining retail
- Outdoor recreation
- Offices
- Personal services (hair)
- Museums (outdoors),
- Zoos (outdoor only)
- University research

Once Connecticut can demonstrate that the number of people who report symptoms and the number of positive tests for COVID-19 have declined for at least 14 days, leaders can move into the next consecutive phases that gradually relax restrictions and slowly reopen restaurants and other businesses, and permit visits to senior living facilities and elective surgeries. The plan specifies that hospitals also must be able to “treat all patients without crisis care” before starting the reopening process. To date, the state has not released an office date for phase 2 & 3.

**Per the state of Connecticut guidelines with regard to May 20<sup>th</sup> re-opening: older adults (65+) and people with underlying health conditions-including those with high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and a compromised immune system -should continue to shelter in place.**

## **What Socialization Options are Available to Residents:**

The CDC reminds us that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. At the same time, we understand residents wanting to participate in socialization. Each resident should balance the need for socialization with the need to limit the likelihood of being exposed to the virus. The following areas are open to residents:

- 1) Interior areas: Dining room conversation stations (see below for more information), chat window, library foyer, all hallways. With other resident's permission, resident may visit other residents in their apartment. In all cases, residents should maintain at least 6 feet of distance, wear a face covering, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- 2) Outside areas: Front patio, front sidewalk, front pod (exterior sitting area closest to Manchester Manor, dining terrace). Please observe 1 person per bench/seat when outside. Portions of the back circle and resident garden beds will be opening next week (see information below). Social distancing rules apply and face coverings must be worn when outside.

### **Dining Room Conversation Station Now Open:**

We are now trialing a new option for social interaction. The Dining Room has been outfitted with seats for residents to interact with each other. Please be observe the following guidelines (also posted in the dining room).

- 1) Any persons with signs of illness or in apartment isolation should not use this space
- 2) Residents must wear a face covering at all times.
- 3) Chairs must stay in the current configuration. See tape lines on floor.
- 4) No additional seats (e.g. walkers or chairs) shall be added
- 5) Residents should wipe chairs with provided wipes prior to seating. Upon returning to their apartment, resident should wash hands.

**Again, this is the first step in socialization and we will be monitoring this process closely.** Lastly, interaction with any persons present an increased risk of infection and residents should use their own judgement and discretion prior to use of common areas.

### **Garden Beds/back walking path:**

A portion of the back walking path and the resident garden beds will be opening soon. More news to come. We will be cleaning and marking areas of uneven asphalt. When construction is complete, we will be closing the back area for re-paving (re-paving for late summer).

**Please stay safe and participate in our group calls, bingo, and enjoying some fresh air!**