



December 30, 2021

Dear Residents and Employees,

The Omicron and Delta variants continue to be driving a significant increase in COVID-19 cases across the nation. At Waverly Heights we had two residents from the independent living area infected. Both are doing well with one out of quarantine and the other completing on Sunday, January 2nd. We have had twelve employees of Waverly Heights and six employees of Waverly Care test positive over the last week. All have mild to moderate symptoms and some are completely asymptomatic.

After consultation with Dr. Breish and in following the recent guidance by the CDC we have modified the quarantine requirement for positive tests and for exposure. Residents who test positive will be required to quarantine for seven days. Residents who are exposed to someone who is positive will not be required to quarantine, but should wear a facemask for 10 days following exposure. Our employee quarantine procedures vary depending on where they work within the community. Our infection control team continues to meet daily to address each situation independently.

While there have been some breakthrough cases in resident/employees who have had booster shots, there is clear evidence that boosters do work and are effective at preventing the COVID-19 infection.

The Montgomery County positivity rate has increased to 12.09% as of Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Based on the high positivity rate in the County and out of an abundance of caution, we have made the decision to cancel all large group programs (those with ten or more people). We also suggest everyone carefully consider their New Year's Eve plans and evaluate the risk/benefit of getting together with groups of people.

We would like to remind everyone that our best defense against becoming infected are to follow these guidelines:

- Everyone should get a booster shot to enhance protection.
- Avoid large crowds, especially where vaccination status is unknown.
- Wear facemask properly covering nose and mouth.
- Strongly consider only surrounding yourself by people who have been vaccinated. Children over the age of 5 are now eligible to be vaccinated, so be sure to check their vaccination status when deciding to visit.
- Practice social distancing as much as possible.
- Wash hands frequently

Waverly Heights will continue to require all visitors to the Commons Buildings to be fully vaccinated and must show proof of vaccination upon check-in at the main entrance.

It is critical that if you feel sick or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, please notify the Wellness Center immediately at extension 8746. COVID-19 testing can be completed on-site only for those who are either symptomatic or have known exposure.

I wish you all a Happy New Year as we look forward to putting the pandemic behind us in 2022!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas P. Garvin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Thomas P. Garvin  
President & CEO