



December 23, 2021

Dear Residents, Employees, and Families:

Bolded topics highlighted in blue indicate changes have been made since the last communication.

Importance of Wearing Masks

We would like to emphasize that the wearing of masks is required for all Towers and Health Center common areas, even if a resident or employee has recently recovered from COVID. Other than Delta, not a lot is known about other variants that could cause future concerns about reinfection. Everyone wearing a mask is a best practice and demonstrates a unified approach to mitigating the spread of COVID in general. Complimentary KN95 masks continue to be available for residents and employees at the Towers and Health Center concierge desks. Below is the most recent CDC information regarding the importance of wearing masks.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

Omicron Variant

The CDC posted a new resource for the Omicron variant on their COVID-19 website. The CDC is working with state and local public health officials to monitor the spread of Omicron. As of December 20th, Omicron had been detected in most states and territories, and it is rapidly increasing the number of COVID-19 cases. For more information, visit this website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>

Guidance for Safe Holiday Gatherings

We know that gathering during the holiday season is important for families. Please reference this article from the Oklahoma State Department of Health regarding guidance for safe holiday gatherings:

<https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/newsroom/2021/december/osdh-offers-guidance-for-safe-holiday-gatherings.html>

Current Statistics (Dec 23rd Oklahoma State Department of Health)

- Tulsa's 3-day average for hospitalizations is 229 (77 of those in ICU).
- Oklahoma's positivity rate is 11.4%.

Towers and Garden Home Residents

Since our last communication on Dec 9th, no residents have tested positive. The *active* resident total is zero. The total number of residents who have tested positive is 31.

COVID Positive Employees

Since our last communication on Dec 9th, a Plant Operations employee, Abbey Nursing Care Partner and Health Center Administration employee have tested positive. The total number of employees who have tested positive is 70.

Chateau

Since our last communication on Dec 9th, no residents have tested positive. The *active* resident total is zero. The total number of residents who have tested positive is 15.

Villa

Since our last communication on Dec 9th, no residents have tested positive. The *active* resident total is zero. The total number of residents who have tested positive is 16.

Abbey

Since our last communication on Dec 9th, no residents have tested positive. The *active* resident total is zero. The total number of residents who have tested positive is three. As a result of the employee case mentioned above, outbreak testing is being completed for Abbey residents today.

Health Center Visitation & Campus Involvement

Indoor visitation is open for all areas of the Health Center in accordance with our visitation guidelines. These guidelines have been updated to include limited reservations for guests in dining rooms and are available at the Towers and Health Center Concierge desks. Please review the visitation guidelines prior to visiting. All Health Center visitors, including Towers and Garden Home residents, are required to screen at the Health Center Concierge desk. Additionally, Health Center residents may continue participation in Towers activities and events, including religious services, spa appointments, and use of the fitness center and restaurants.

Employee Testing

Surveillance testing for unvaccinated Home Care employees is conducted once per week. Villa and Abbey employees continue to be tested twice per week. Chateau employees are tested twice per week per CMS regulation. Guidance changed on Sep 13th and testing is now based on the facility's county level of community transmission instead of county test positivity rate. Tulsa County's transmission rate for long term care is 12.1%.

We continue to COVID test symptomatic employees and contact trace if positive. In addition, we are testing support staff who work in all areas of the community as an extra precautionary measure, including Towers Unidine staff.

Thank you,

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COO/Administrator Health Services