

May 18, 2021

# Communiqué

## Updated Mask Wearing Protocols and Safety Guidance

Following recently updated guidance from both the CDC and the Commonwealth of PA regarding mask wearing, last Friday's Communique committed to providing further information regarding indoor masking protocols following evaluation. We are pleased announce that in accordance with PA DOH and CDC guidance:

- **Vaccinated Residents** – Mask will become optional effective May 24, 2021, which coincides with our opening date for most amenities and venues at Willow Valley Communities
  - ◇ There will be a few exceptions. As examples: Mask will be required on transport bus and in Supportive Living buildings
- **Unvaccinated Residents** – Mask is required both outdoors and indoors
- Please practice acceptance of others' personal mask choice; mask wearing does not imply that a Resident is unvaccinated
- **Team Members** will continue to wear masks as we further evaluate WVC Team Member protocols regarding masking
- Capacity limits will be in place during initial phase of opening

### Making Safer Choices

As indoor masking becomes optional for vaccinated Residents, we want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of how to make safer choices to protect themselves and our Communities. As we have said before, the best prevention is avoiding the virus:

- The vaccine is not 100%; the vaccine works to prevent severe illness after you have been exposed
- As the vaccine begins to work, it is possible to have symptoms of illness if exposed to a virus
- Personal choice should be used to determine risk mitigation for fully vaccinated Residents.
  - ◇ Self-monitoring remains important
  - ◇ If you are not feeling well, then remain at home

Three factors to making safer choices:

1. Location – open air spaces safer than enclosed spaces
2. Proximity – farther away from others is safer than close together
3. Time – shorter time periods with others are safer

Safer choices include:

- Wearing a mask is safest to reduce risk of viral transmission through the air
- Outdoors is safer than indoors
- Social distancing is safer than close contact
- Avoiding large crowds is safer
- Hand hygiene continues to be important

*(over please)*

## **Infection Prevention**

Infection prevention remains an important part of maintaining general health and wellness as WVC continues to focus on safe opening with the following risk mitigation measures:

- Ventilation upgrades
- Hand hygiene stations
- Vaccination campaign to promote vaccine acceptance
- Vaccine clinics on campus
- Continued Team Member testing
- Screening stations for those entering our campuses
- Increased cleaning activity
- IL Resident testing available

*Denny* — Dennis W. Griest, President & CFO