

January 19, 2021

Dear Residents of RiverWoods Exeter, Birch Hill, and RiverWoods Durham,

You've heard me say it plenty of times, but it certainly is worth repeating: the vaccine is coming. We are working with the State directly to determine the best way to get our Independent Living residents their vaccine in a way that is most efficient and expedient. More to come on that process later as we work out details with our partners at the State.

In addition to the complex process that is vaccines, we're also all dealing with COVID fatigue. At both RiverWoods Exeter and Birch Hill, we currently have a few Independent Living residents who have tested positive. The contact tracing leads us to believe that the original sources were all family or other unmasked situations. That's a risk that we cannot afford to take right now. With that being said, please take these **strong reminders** and put them into practice immediately if you have not already done so:

1. Don't risk unmasked exposure with your family. It isn't worth it. Even if you are sure they haven't seen anyone else; you just don't know and can't be certain.
2. Restaurants are a really bad idea. They include the risks associated with not wearing a mask **and** the risks of being around people you don't know.
3. In any social situation or times that you interact with others in your community (even if it's picking up food or attending a class), your mask **needs** to be worn and you **need** to also maintain six feet of social distance.
4. Limiting your time around any other people reduces your risk.

Now is not the time to get lax. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, with the roll out of the vaccine, but we need to stay the course. We can't do that as successfully if we have positive cases and risky behavior.

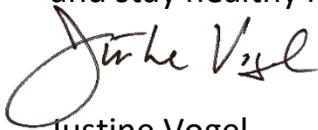
While we don't have dates for an IL vaccination clinic yet, consider this example: If we can provide the vaccination by February 8th, your second dose would be

March 1, and you would have 95% immunity by March 15th. That isn't too far away and puts us at exactly a year since this all started.

New Hampshire's cases have doubled in the last month, and the risk of spread is greater than ever. Yes, Winter is cold and bleak, but I know you agree that it will be much darker and drearier if we completely shut our campuses down again. Unfortunately, that is a real possibility if we see spread within the independent living communities

We need to wear our masks and practice social distancing. We all need to do our part so we can welcome and celebrate Spring together, with all of us fully vaccinated.

More to come related to the vaccine after a conversation with the State today or early tomorrow. Until then, wash your hands, wear your mask, stay six feet apart, and stay healthy my friends.



Justine Vogel
TRWG CEO