

February 22, 2021

Dear Residents,

It is exciting to note that when our second round of vaccinations is complete next Friday, March 5, we will have 99% of our residents (from IL and Health Care) vaccinated. I'm going to round up and call that "everybody!" It's great news, and it allows us to adjust our operations, so we move forward a little bit. The other good news is that a high percentage of our staff have also been vaccinated, ranging from 75% - 87% throughout the communities. This staff vaccination rate is not quite as good as yours, but much higher than the numbers we hear from our friends around the country.

These high percentages of vaccinated people allow us to start to "re-open" our Independent Living operations within the communities. We will do that in a gradual way starting the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Each community may be slightly different in timing due to the specific circumstances of their operations, so look for a memo from your Executive Director in the new few weeks related to the specifics of opening dining, gatherings in common areas, allowing visitors on campus, and other programs and services. Again, this will be gradual, but it's happening!

### The Basics

- Once you have achieved 14 days post your second vaccination shot you can consider yourself quite safe to be around other vaccinated people. How fortunate that your friends and neighbors within your community fall into that category!
- The State Department of Public Health (DPH) has changed two rules for fully vaccinated people:
  - You do not need to quarantine if you are exposed to someone who is positive for COVID-19 UNLESS you are symptomatic.
  - You do not need to quarantine after travel outside of New England UNLESS you are symptomatic. PLEASE NOTE: DPH still **strongly discourages** non-essential travel. Also note, international travel is

still an extremely bad idea. **RiverWoods will require quarantine for international travel.**

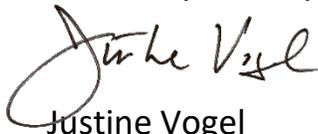
- Our rules for public areas related to masks (wear it) and distancing (we will expand room capacity but still appropriately space to allow for six foot social distancing) will remain until we are told by DPH or the CDC to discontinue these recommendations.

You are adults and you will make your own decisions regarding your behavior and interactions outside of our campuses, but a few things to consider:

1. We are the fortunate “1<sup>st</sup> rounders” to receive the vaccine. At this point only about 12% of the population nationwide has received their first shot, and less than 4% have received both shots. That means the vast majority of people you encounter outside of your RiverWoods community are not vaccinated.
2. The vaccines are approximately 95% effective. That is amazing, but it is not 100%. The effectiveness gives us great comfort, but nothing is foolproof.
3. Your vaccination provides you a 95% likelihood of immunity from illness, but it is not known if it keeps you from getting, or spreading, the virus. So, consider one of your responsibilities is to continue to limit who you are around, as you could make others sick and never know it.
4. The indications are that our Pfizer vaccine is highly effective against the variants that are occurring, but there is much that is not yet known. The less we move about (our state and our country) the more likely we will limit and contain any spread.
5. The United States is vaccinating about 1.6 million people per day, and the current thinking is that we will have vaccinated all willing citizens by July. Considering what we have been through, that is right around the corner! Keeping your travel, activity, and social circle outside of your community small until then is your way to help our state, and our nation, heal.
6. Restaurants are still a bad idea. They are a combination of people you don't know, and time without a mask. We are comfortable gradually opening your dining rooms within the community as essentially all diners are vaccinated. That is not the case in an outside restaurant. Additionally, we will continue our extensive testing of staff, testing all non-vaccinated health

care staff on a weekly basis, and a portion of our non-vaccinated IL staff too. This does not happen in the regular world.

For a year we have been waiting for science to catch up. It has. And you have done the smart thing and accepted the vaccine. Thank you for that. Your high acceptance rate allows us to operate safer within the communities and we look forward to beginning that wonderful transition to “more normal” within our walls. But let’s all remember that we are the lucky ones so far; being the first brings the responsibility of using our good fortune in a responsible way – keeping our circles small, wearing our masks, and maintaining distancing. We are almost there, folks. Here is to celebrating small (but fun) on your Immunity Day! Until then, stay healthy my friends!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Vogel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

Justine Vogel  
TRWG CEO