



January 26, 2022

Dear Staff, Patients, and Responsible Parties,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we come to the end of the first month of the new year, I would like to share some important updates, CDC Updates, State Department of Public Health and Governor Executive Orders, as well as updates on our current Covid-19 outbreak at the facility.

- ❖ Since December 3, 2021, the facility has not gone 28 days (the federal definition to emerge from an outbreak of at least one Covid-19 case) without no new cases. The holiday season, along with the transmissibility of the Omicron and Delta variants have been major contributing factors to the positivity rate across Connecticut (nearly 25% in the middle of January - at the time of this letter- it's 13.74%). The facility continues to test employees and patients on a routine basis and follow infection control procedures established by state and federal agencies.
 - As of February, the facility will be rolling out a new phone message (keep an eye out for (405) 548-2251) and paper notification systems for our patients, responsible parties, and staff , detailing new positive cases and outbreak totals.
- ❖ On January 6, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont issued an executive order (14B) mandating that by February 11, 2022, all employees who are/have been eligible for a booster do receive their Covid-19 booster. Per the CDC, a person is eligible to receive a booster dose 5 months after completing their primary series of mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) or 2 months after completing primary vaccination with the J&J vaccine.
 - The facility will continue to offer Covid-19 Vaccine and Booster Clinics in the coming weeks. For information on these clinics, please see the infection control nurse on the ground floor of the facility.
 - FAQs and DPH guidance on this requirement is available in the staff development classroom.

- ❖ On January 19, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont issued an executive order (14F) mandating nursing home visitor vaccine and booster verification or substitutional communal and on-site facility testing. All visitors , primary and secondary support individuals, must either provide proof that they are fully vaccinated [and boosted if eligible], OR show proof of a rapid antigen test in the past 48 hours or a PCR in the past 72 hours, OR comply with taking a rapid antigen test upon entering the facility to visit. Please note that submission of false information regarding vaccination or testing results is punishable under state law . The link for the governor's executive order is:
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/Facility-Licensing--Investigations/Blast-Faxes/2022/Executive-Order-No-14F.pdf> .
- ❖ Some of the important verbatim for Executive Orders 14B are attached below for your convenience.

We continue to remain in close contact with the government entities listed above as well state epidemiology consultants. For our staff, visitors, patients and consultants: should you develop signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and receive a positive test in the days following a visit, please notify the facility or your caregivers immediately to enable appropriate contact tracing.

We look forward to greeting you at our facility and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for our patients, staff, and families.

Warmest Regards,

Reuven Fischer, LNHA

*Administrator of Ark Healthcare
and Rehabilitation At Saint Camillus*

b. By February 11, 2022, long-term care facilities shall:

- i. prior to extending an offer of employment to, or entering into a contract or other arrangements with a covered LTC worker, require that any such individual is (1) fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and, if eligible under FDA or CDC guidance, has received a COVID-19 vaccine booster, (2) has received the first dose and has either received a second dose or has an appointment for the second dose in a two-dose series vaccination, such as Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or has received a single-dose

2. **Proof of Vaccination Booster or Testing for Visitors and Primary and Secondary Essential Support Persons.** Notwithstanding Section 19a-550(b)(12) of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, a nursing home shall require a visitor or primary or secondary essential support person prior to visiting a nursing home resident to either:

- a. provide proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and, if eligible under FDA or CDC guidance, have received a COVID-19 vaccine booster; or
- b. provide paper or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from either:
 - i. a rapid antigen test completed within the previous forty-eight hours; or
 - ii. a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test completed within the previous seventy-two hours; or
- c. take a rapid antigen test at the nursing home in a form and manner as directed by the Department of Public Health.

3. **Visitation Restrictions.** Notwithstanding Section 19a-550(b)(12) of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, a nursing home shall deny entrance to any visitor or primary or secondary essential support person that tests positive for COVID-19 or who refuses to take a rapid antigen test provided by the nursing home. A nursing home shall not deny entrance to any visitor or primary or secondary

vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, or (3) exempt from this requirement because a physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse determined that the administration of COVID-19 vaccine or booster is likely to be detrimental to the health of the covered LTC worker or the covered LTC worker objects to vaccination on the basis of a sincerely held religious or spiritual belief, and the covered LTC worker is able to perform his or her essential job functions with a reasonable accommodation that is not an undue burden on the long-term care facility, provided that any covered LTC worker claiming such exemption shall apply for an exemption on the basis of medical conditions or sincerely held religious or spiritual beliefs. Each request for an exemption shall be considered on an individualized, case by case basis. Covered LTC workers who have applied for an exemption shall provide appropriate supporting documentation upon request; and

- ii. not employ or maintain a contract or other arrangements with a covered LTC worker for the provision of services unless such individual (1) is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and, if eligible under CDC/FDA guidance, has received a COVID-19 vaccine booster, (2) or has received an exemption from receiving a COVID-19 vaccination in accord with the requirements of section 3.a.(ii)(3).

essential support person who is willing to take a rapid antigen test at the nursing home to comply with Section 2 above but is unable to because the nursing home is not able to provide a rapid antigen test.

EO 14B

EO14F