

# Memorandum

From the desk of Lisa M. Marsilio

**To:** All Residents, Families of Health Center Residents, Staff Members, Board Members, and Families of the Early Learning Center at Kendal~Crosslands Communities

**From:** Lisa M. Marsilio, Chief Executive Officer

**Date:** July 14, 2021

Over the past week, the latest from both the CDC and the FDA, in a joint statement released July 9, stated, "*a full vaccination will protect **most people** from severe disease and death, and will guard against infection from the currently circulating coronavirus variants such as the highly transmissible Delta variant.*" The statement is undoubtedly good news. It continues to support that all persons must get vaccinated. However, experts acknowledge that individuals with comorbidities may have **reduced** vaccine effectiveness. Therefore, researchers continue to monitor vaccinations and infections as we live in this real-world case study.

With complex medical conditions among many of our residents and conflicting efficacy concerns for persons at high risk of infection, KCC continues its opening journey with a cautious and conservative approach. We realize everyone is weary and exhausted with regulations and masks. Our goal is to keep residents and staff safe. But, just as important, we are focused on preventing an outbreak that could suspend all opening activities and reverse what we've accomplished so far. We will continue monitoring and evaluating the scientific research available to us, especially the CDC's recommendation regarding a booster. So stay tuned for more information.

## **Federal and State Regulations Continue**

KCC is a Lifeplan Community, a **healthcare setting**. Therefore, both Federal (CMS) and State (Department of Health) guidelines continue to regulate our campuses for ongoing proper mask-wearing, especially of health center residents. Also, any person (resident, family, or friend) must be screened before entering the health center. Our Health Center Administrators meet with residents and families regularly to communicate relevant changes to their opening guidelines.

## **\*\* New - Mask Wearing Guidelines \*\***

Dr. Lawrence, our Medical Director, concludes that indoor large group settings statistically provide the highest risk of infection from variant aerosols, and therefore a mask is required. Conversely, smaller group settings offer less risk of infection, and thus a mask is optional.

## New Universal Mask-Wearing Guidelines For Gatherings/Meetings

Here are the **new** guidelines for mask-wearing in the main centers. Mask-wearing is dependent on **the participants and the size** of the gathering:

- Independent living residents gather with 10 or fewer people - no mask required, or a mask is optional
- Staff members or health center residents gather **with** independent living residents - **all** persons must wear a mask
- Health center residents - it is highly recommended that masks are worn at all times
- All persons must wear a mask - when moving about the main center

For example, if ten or fewer independent living residents meet in the Conference Room, the Auditorium, or the Lounge, no mask is required once you arrive at your meeting. However, if staff members or health center residents are in the same meeting, all persons must wear a mask.

Our mask-wearing chart is listed below. **For the room or meeting indicated, the mask requirements are for gatherings with more than ten persons:**

Mask Wearing Guidelines for Independent Living Residents at Kendal at Longwood, Crosslands, Coniston, and Cartmel	Wear a mask	Mask is optional
All hallways, elevators, the upper level of the main center	X	
Café/Coffee Shops	X	
Beauty Shops	X	
Libraries	X	
Auditoriums	X	
Lounges	X	
Gift Shops	X	
Resident Care	X	
Rehabilitation Departments	X	
Moving about the dining venues	X	
When visiting or in the Health Centers	X	
When a staff member or vendor is in your home	X	
When present with staff in a meeting	X	
On KCC buses or vehicles	X	
Indoors with unvaccinated family or friends	X	
In meetings, in the main centers, with other residents or staff	X	
Outdoors		X
Gather in the home with other vaccinated persons		X
Once seated in the dining venues		X
*Aquatic and Fitness Centers once at your activity		X
Lower level activity spaces such as the woodshop, pottery, weaving rooms (unless a health center resident is present, then a mask is required)		X

**\*Note:** all staff members using the fitness facilities must wear a mask at all times.

With the greater public relaxed mask-wearing guidelines and our nearly 100% resident vaccination rate at KCC, we understand the desire to apply similar principles in our community. However, **mask-wearing will be a part of our daily community life** in our main centers and our health centers in the foreseeable future. We will continue to review the proper infection control practices for the health and safety of our residents and staff members. Please, we kindly ask, if our staff members gently remind you of our policy, **please be respectful**.

## **New Opening Guidelines**

### Visitor Grab-n-Go Meals - effective July 26

Any family or friend visiting our residents may enter the main center and pick up a meal **to go** for breakfast or lunch in the Café's only. Given the volume of resident take-out dinner meals, no evening meal or Brunch take-out is available for visitors at this juncture. Also, your family and friends do not need to stop at the Front Desk to get screened. However, as a reminder, if a resident or an outside visitor is here to see a resident in our health centers, they must be screened before entering the dining area or the health center. Outdoor seating continues to be available for residents and visitors to gather and share a meal. Enjoy.

We will provide additional dining service options in the coming weeks, including capacity at each dining table. Stay tuned for more information from John Platt.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. I was on the bus last week, and it was a very hot and humid day. Can water be available?

A. Hydration is essential, especially on these hot summer days, and we are glad you asked. Yes, we will have mini bottles of water available on our buses on extreme heat weather days. However, an environmentally friendly option is to fill a water bottle at home and carry it with you. At Crosslands, you can frequently fill your bottle either in the Café or in the Multi-Purpose Room (located on the lower level). At Kendal at Longwood, the soda/water dispenser in the Coffee Shop is operational, so you can quickly fill a water bottle at that location.

Q. Is it ok for my great-grandchild to visit me in my cottage? Unfortunately, due to their age, they are not eligible to get the vaccine.

A. Yes, one family unit may visit at one time with our residents in their home regardless of age or vaccination status. However, if a person (no matter the age) is not vaccinated, we highly recommend masks are worn at all times indoors. Better yet, visit outdoors. If your family or friends are not feeling well, we suggest they postpone the visit.

Q. I would like to host family and friends on campus for an outdoor memorial service. Is there a limit on the number of persons I can invite? Also, do they all need to be vaccinated and wear a mask?

A. There is no limit in the number of residents or visitors you may host for any outdoor event. We ask that you coordinate the logistics (tents, culinary services) with the proper individuals. Your friends and family don't need to be vaccinated since the infection risk is less with an outdoor event. With that said, if you are immunocompromised and in a large gathering with many people you don't know, we highly recommend you wear a mask, even if you are outdoors. Being socially distant from persons whose vaccination status is unclear is also a good practice. Any unvaccinated person should wear a mask if they come into your home. Our main center continues to be closed to family and friends.

In health,



Lisa M. Marsilio  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Donna Taylor, Chief Health Services Officer  
Dr. Thomas E. Lawrence, MD, Medical Director  
Richard Wortmann, Board Clerk

**Poem about your mask...**

If you come to the center, this is the place  
To put on your mask and cover your face.  
We've all had our shots, but just in case,  
Remember your mask; wear it with grace.  
Keep a mask in your pocket, one in your bag,  
One in your basket with your name tag.  
Whatever it takes: I don't mean to nag,  
Mask in the center; don't be a drag.

**Author:** Jane Roberts, Crosslands Residents