

Goodwin House Public Statement | Dec. 23, 2021

Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

Below, please read a letter that we distributed via email to families and friends of Goodwin House Residents on December 23, 2021.

Just last week, we were in touch to provide you with an update on protocols we expected to be in place for the remainder of the holiday season. We had not expected to be in touch again so soon, yet recent developments led us to further reviews of our infection precaution protocols.

The Omicron variant is highly transmissible to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Cases are on the rise and breaking records for daily case counts around the country, including the National Capital Region. In light of this most recent news, and in order to ensure we are doing all we can to keep residents and staff healthy and safe, we have implemented additional protocols over the last two days.

We shared these latest updates to our protocols in a letter to residents yesterday, and another that went out today.

Updated Protocols

Goodwin House has learned that prevention is the best defense against the pandemic. Our Infection Precaution & Planning (IPP) Team determined the following steps are necessary to best ensure the health and safety of residents and staff. We know how important it is for us to spend time with loved ones, especially during the holidays. Wherever possible, we sought to find protocols that would still allow residents and loved ones to be together.

We expect the following protocols to be in place through the New Year. We will update you as soon as possible if there is a need for further protocols.

Dining On Campus

Dining venues will remain open to residents for the holidays; however, guests are no longer permitted to dine in the dining venues. Guests may dine with Residential (Independent) Living residents in their apartment homes. Takeout meals will be available from Dining Services for both residents and their guests. Dining Services is reaching out to residents who had reservations in the dining venues that included outside visitors to discuss options and make arrangements for them.

*We are committed to keeping you, residents and staff healthy.
Please join us in our efforts to keep our community infection-free.*



Updates on Visits

Our campus remains open to guests and visitors, though we are discouraging visits to residents in Assisted Living, Memory Support and the Health Care Center (see details below). We ask that all visitors continue to follow our check-in process by stopping at the Reception Desk when you arrive on campus. Guests must always wear a surgical mask in the common areas of campus; surgical masks are available at the Reception Desk for anyone who needs one.

We are able to welcome visitors who have reserved a guest room, but we ask them to be mindful and attentive to the protocols that are in place during their visit. They will not be able to dine in our dining venues, though they may order a meal from our Dining Services that will be delivered to their guest room for an additional fee.

Visits to Residents in the Health Care Center, Assisted Living and Memory Support

Following the recommendation of local health departments, we are discouraging visits to Assisted Living, Memory Support and the Health Care Centers at this time. We know it is difficult to stay away during the holidays, but we ask that you please not visit and reschedule for a later time. As we did during earlier phases of the pandemic, we will do all we can to support residents and any phone or video connections they wish to make with family. If you choose to visit, we must caution you that you may be exposed to and become infected with the COVID-19 virus. Also, if you choose to visit, you may be asked to take additional infection precaution measures such as wearing additional PPE (personal protective equipment).

Additional Steps Taken by Goodwin House

We are increasing the frequency of cleaning and sanitizing of common areas, including elevators and bathrooms. Additionally, staff with the most direct interaction with residents will be wearing masks and face shields.

Help Us All Stay Healthy This Holiday

You can help us limit the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please delay your visit until it is safe to come on campus. Also, let's not forget the three basic steps for preventing infections:

- Frequently wash and sanitize your hands
- Properly wear a mask whenever you are outside your home
- Keep a social distance of six feet from others where possible

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These measures are simple and often repeated, because they do help to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as other diseases such as the flu.

Let's Keep in Touch

As we face this latest surge in COVID-19 cases, we will return to an increased frequency of messaging to residents, staff and you, our friends and family. You can expect to hear from us more regularly as we find our way through this together.

Please remember to be kind to yourself and others in the days ahead. We are all entering the third year of this pandemic. Frontline staff, especially those who are first responders and in health care settings, are experiencing unrelenting stress brought on by this pandemic. Let us remember this and offer extra care and support to everyone around us in the days and weeks ahead.

We invite you to [watch this message](#) from President and CEO Rob Liebreich. Rob shares more about the proactive measures we are taking given rapid transmission of COVID-19 across our region (and the country). These measures ensure we are doing our part to preserve the health and safety of the older adults in our communities and the staff who support them.

We are stronger together and will get through this surge in cases. Thank you, as always, for your commitment to our safety efforts and your support of everyone in the Goodwin House family. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

We wish Merry Christmas to all those who celebrate, and may we all enjoy a happy, festive and healthy holiday season!

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