



July 30, 2021

Dear Residents of The Mather,

We hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and well as you enjoy the summer.

As you know, Mather's COVID-19 task force continues to monitor trends, including the rise in COVID-19 cases across the nation and locally. **Cook County currently falls in the substantial transmission category** on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Data Tracker website, and it is recommended that masks be worn by all people regardless of their vaccination status while in indoor settings.

While The Mather is considered your home, we have a substantial number of visitors in our community, as well as residents who are out and about. For this reason, **we are requiring everyone, including residents, to wear a face mask when in the amenity spaces of the community.** (Visitors are currently required to wear face masks in amenity spaces.)

In addition, we ask for your continued vigilance in core infection control practices:

- screening of visitors who enter the community
- frequent hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water)
- physical distancing at least six feet between persons when possible
- use outdoor spaces for gatherings when possible
- get tested if you experience COVID-19 symptoms
- get tested three to five days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result.
- isolate if you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

In the event of a known exposure, symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please contact the Concierge at (847) 492.5000.

At this time, all **employees will continue to wear face masks** for the reasons noted below. Please know that we routinely evaluate the need for this standard:

- The number of COVID-19 cases is rising, particularly the highly contagious delta variant.
- The use of face masks as a way to reduce the spread of the virus is a requirement of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), CDC, and other regulatory agencies for The Mather Life Centre.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued guidance that requires we implement measures to protect employees from potential exposure to COVID-19, and wearing face masks is one of those measures.
- We serve people who are at higher risk for illness if exposed to COVID-19.
- New employees and residents may not yet be fully vaccinated.



- We have visitors coming in whose vaccination status is unknown.

We want you to know that we base our community-specific guidelines on current indicators from sources including (but not limited to)

- CDC guidance
- local Department of Health guidance
- regulatory requirements for the Life Centre
- county positivity rates
- resident and employee vaccination rates
- the presence of positive cases within the community

The good news is that being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is shown to be effective in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19 disease, and especially risk of severe illness and death. However, preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who become infected with the delta variant can spread the virus to others. People at increased risk for severe disease include older adults and those with certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, overweight or obesity, and heart conditions.

The health and well-being of residents and employees remains our top priority. We are learning new information about COVID-19 as the pandemic progresses, but one thing remains constant: practicing strong infection control measures continues to be important. Know that we'll continue to provide updates as we learn more, and as guidelines change.

Below are resources that you can use to obtain additional information:

Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People | CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Certain Medical Conditions and Risk for Severe COVID-19 Illness | CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

Please take care and stay well.

Sincerely,

Deann Daniel
Executive Director

PS: Please note that this letter is being shared with all residents' current emergency contacts.