

Dighton Housing Authority (DHA)

DightonHA.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lincoln Village Resident

FROM: Robbie A. DeSouza, Executive Director

DATE: November 10, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update and Misc. Information

Happy Veterans Day! Thank you to all who have served our country. The COVID-19 numbers are rising so this is the time we all need to be wearing a mask in public, try to keep a social distance from others you do not live with, wash your hands often, disinfect surfaces you touch often, and most important stay home if you are sick. Remember to keep in touch with friends and family by phone or maybe write a letter or send an email. If you need assistance with anything call (508-823-8361) or email (Director@DightonHA.org) me and I will do my best to help or find you the help you need. Below please find some upcoming important dates or other reminders:

- **Office:** The Office is closed to the public. Staff is available by phone (508-823-83621), by email (Director@DightonHA.org), or by appointment when absolutely necessary.
- **Maintenance Work:** If you need any work (emergency or non-emergency) done in your apartment please call 508-823-8361 or email Director@DightonHA.org. Maintenance needs a work order for all work performed. If you are not feeling well, please let maintenance know before he comes to your home.
- **Fire Alarm Testing:** **On November 16, 2020, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the contractor and maintenance will be doing fire/smoke alarm testing. They will need to enter your unit. You do not have to be home, but your unit will be entered, and the necessary testing will be done whether you are home or not. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) mandates this testing, even during the COVID-19 Emergency, for the safety of all residents, guests, staff, and visitors.**
- **Dighton Food Bank:** The Dighton Food Bank will be at Lincoln Village Community Center on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Each Building will be assigned a time to come to the food bank, please see below. When you are at the food bank please practice social distancing and wear a mask. If you have not registered for the Dighton Food Bank, please come by on this day and someone will assist you.

H Building 8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

A Building 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

B Building 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

C Building 8:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

D Building 9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

E Building 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

F Building 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

G Building- 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- **COVID-19:** The DHA would appreciate you letting us know immediately by phone (508-823-8361) or by email (Director@DightonHA.org) if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- **Hand Sanitization Centers:** I am sure you have noticed the DHA has placed many hand sanitization centers throughout Lincoln Village for the safety of all residents, staff, applicants, and visitors. I am hoping they will be used often. I am not a fan of the smell of the sanitizer, but it will kill COVID-19. Tim, maintenance employee, has contacted the distributor looking for a better smell. I have purchased several bottles of hand sanitizer for my home often they do not smell particularly good.
- **Pop-Up Inflatables:** *On Saturday, December 12, 2020, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pop-Up Inflatables will be delivering a holiday gift bag to each household.* Pop-Up Inflatables is an informal group of volunteers led by Dighton resident Cynthia Solomon (Cindy's mom lives at Lincoln Village) to spread cheer. The inflatables will stay outside of each building, but a nice volunteer will run in the gifts.

- Flu Shot: Widespread flu vaccination will be critical this fall and winter to avoid overwhelming health care providers with both COVID-19 and flu patients. This is especially important for vulnerable populations, particularly seniors. The DHA strongly encourages residents to obtain a flu vaccine, unless recommended otherwise by a healthcare professional.
- Annual Unit Inspections: The Dighton Housing Authority has deferred the remaining 2020 inspection to 2021. Any questions or concerns please contact the Office (508-823-8361).
- Maintenance Emergencies: As always if you have a maintenance emergency in your unit, day, or night, call 508-823-8361. The Taunton Housing Authority will be assisting DHA with after-hours emergency calls.
- Masks: If you are in need of masks please call (508-823-8361) or email me (Director@DightonHA.org).
- Community Building: The Community Building is open for checking your mail, doing your laundry, paying your rent, etc. Masks are required in the Community Center. If- you are waiting in the large room for your laundry, remember to keep at least 6 feet apart from other residents you do not live with.
- Unemployment Benefits: The Department of Housing and Community Development has stated in Public Housing Notice 2020-31 that enhanced benefits authorized by the Federal Government will be included in income for the purpose of rent effective immediately. If your income changes, more than 10%, your Lease states you must report the change to the Authority.
- Resident Services: The Resident Services Department is committed to working with you to find the resources and services you need for problems or issues you may be experiencing.
 - Ann Sullivan – 508-824-0315 – ASullivan@TauntonHousing.com
- Resident Advisory Board: The Board is looking for volunteers to sit on a Resident Advisory Board. The Resident Advisory Board purpose is to advise the Dighton Housing Authority on its Annual Plan and other matters of concern to residents of the Dighton Housing Authority. If you are interested, please call (508-823-8361) or email me (Director@DightonHA.org).
- MassSupport: MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care. MassSupport provides:
 1. Free and confidential counseling for stress and other emotional reactions to the Pandemic in multiple languages
 2. Referral to services
 3. Free mental health screenings on MassSupport website: www.MassSupport.org MassSupport can help you:
 - Take stock of needs
 - Identify solutions
 - Enhance or develop coping strategies
 - Feel heard
 - Understand and manage your reactions
 - Be less stressed
 - Get reliable, fact-based information Contact MassSupport by phone at 1-888-215-4920 or by email at MassSupport@riversidecc.org
- COVID-19 Information: Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:
 - *Washing your hands often with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. *Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray and wipes. *Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands. *Limit physical contact such as shaking hands. *Limit contact with high touch surface areas such as handrails, doorknobs, etc. *Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others. *Avoid close contact with people who appear sick. *Think ahead about how to take care of yourself and your loved ones.