



A Continuing Care Retirement Community

May 12, 2020

Families and Members of our Homewood Community:

I want to thank you all for your support and patience through this COVID-19 pandemic. We have come a long way since this all began and now we are seeing some hope that we will be able to move toward a new normal. Blair County has announced that they will be moving to the “yellow” phase of reopening this Friday, May 15, 2020. While this means there will be more businesses opening and more reasons for people to be out in public, we are still operating under the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the CDC. Under this guidance, we must maintain our no visitation restrictions and use extreme caution.

We received a letter from the Blair County Director of Public Safety today with both praise for our measures to remain free of the COVID-19 virus, and caution to continue our efforts and not let down our guard. We know senior care communities have a high level of risk related to the virus and we will continue our efforts to remain free of COVID-19. With 11,645 positive cases and 2,529 deaths in 539 senior communities across Pennsylvania, we must remain diligent with our safety measures.

In an effort to keep everyone safe as our county moves to the yellow phase, our co-workers have chosen to adhere to a “Safety Pledge” as their commitment to safe practices both at work and home to keep our residents safe. They are all exceptionally dedicated to those they serve!

Though we still cannot allow visitors, we are planning a phased approach to lifting restrictions as we are permitted. This week we will begin a schedule of socially distanced outdoor activities for our independent living residents. Take out service from our Café will resume, and we will offer curb side pick-up for groceries.

The Health Care Center is providing in-room and hallway activities along with virtual visits with friends and family. We have added some outdoor bird houses, window paintings, and even some in room goldfish to keep things lively.

I pray for the day when all of our families can be reunited. I thank you again for your support and prayers as we forge ahead on this journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Defibaugh".

Lisa Defibaugh, Executive Director