



November 24, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Warm wishes to you all during this Thanksgiving week! We have been blessed with good weather and encouraging news that a vaccine for COVID 19 might be released in the coming weeks.

As many of you are aware, the COVID 19 positivity rate for Blair and surrounding counties has far exceeded 10% which places us in a “red” category. This is very concerning and we ask you to join us in taking precaution to keep our community safe. For our Health Care, Assisted Lifestyle and Personal Care residents, we are restricting visitation to compassionate care situations and compassionate caregivers. We will also limit any outside trips to medical appointments only. This is a temporary measure to protect our residents and we will reevaluate when the rate of community spread is at a safer level.

I share with you below a brief update of the COVID activities and reopening plan progress for each of our levels of care.

Health Care Center

I am pleased to report that we have not had a new COVID positive resident case in our Health Care Center since October 26, 2020. Our Health Care Center’s Springfield Unit had the first positive case on October 1, 2020 with a total of 36 residents who tested positive during this outbreak. Thirty-three residents recovered and sadly, 3 residents passed away as a result of COVID 19.

Our entire Health Care Center remains on yellow precautions as we continue to have staff members who test positive. This is a reflection of our rapidly rising county positivity rate. We are testing all staff twice weekly until our county rates fall below 10%.

Our COVID recovery unit remains open to provide care to residents from our Springhouse Estates Campus and one of our own Independent Living residents.

Assisted Lifestyles and Personal Care

During the first week of November we had 2 staff members test positive for COVID 19. After 14 days of staff and resident testing, we have confirmed that all staff and residents are virus free. As a result, we are able to reduce restrictions internally to allow for residents to enjoy socially distanced dining and activities. We will continue with restrictions for both on and off campus visitation until our county rates are below 10%.

We will test all staff, and any resident who has had outside contact weekly.

Independent Living

On November 17, we were notified that one of our independent living apartment residents tested positive for COVID. She is currently recovering on our COVID recovery unit in the Health Care Center.

It is important that residents who are having guests in their units to take precautions to avoid exposing other campus residents to guests. This includes limiting guests to your unit. Guests should not be brought into shared community spaces in our Southview building. I appreciate everyone's cooperation with these temporary safety measures.

As I share these words of caution and remind you all to stay safe, it is also important to embrace the warmth of this Thanksgiving season and connect with friends and family through all of the many ways technology affords us.

I want to reassure you all that there will be life after COVID and with the release of a vaccine in sight, we all have much to be thankful for. I send you all blessings of joy and peace during this Thanksgiving.

My best to you all,

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

Lisa Defibaugh
Executive Director