HOMEWOOD
AT MARTINSBURG
A Continuing Care Retirement Community

December 14, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

I hope you all are enjoying the Christmas season! Though our holiday season will be very different this year, we still have much to be thankful for.

I will start with some encouraging news. The COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for emergency use and should be distributed to nursing homes prior to the end of the year. This comes as we are seeing the highest number of COVID-19 cases in our county since the start of the pandemic.

During the past week Pennsylvania saw very concerning increases in COVID-19 cases. Locally, our Blair County Department of Emergency Services reported a county positivity rate of over 20%. Statewide, Governor Wolf and the Secretary of Health have implemented temporary COVID-19 protective mitigation measures for Pennsylvania. The new, limited-time mitigation orders took effect at 12:01 a.m. on December 12, and remain in effect until 8 a.m. on January 4, 2021. These orders include restrictions for indoor dining, fitness and social gatherings.

In response, we are implementing internal protective measures for our campus at all levels of care. I share with you below a brief update of the COVID activities and reopening plan for each of our levels of care.

Health Care Center

Our testing plan includes twice weekly testing for all coworkers and any care providers that must enter our facility. Additionally, residents with any potential exposure or symptoms will be tested. We continue with our strict infection control practices, routine screening for symptoms, and overall mitigation efforts.

We have restricted visitation at this time except in certain compassionate care situations. I encourage families to take advantage of written, phone and electronic communication during this time of increased protective measures.

We are caring for 2 COVID positive residents in our isolation area. Both residents are expected to recover this week.

We currently have 8 staff members who have tested positive. All are expected to recover over the next week.

Assisted Lifestyles and Personal Care

We continue to have no positive cases in residents or coworkers in our Assisted Lifestyles and Personal Care units.

Our testing plan includes weekly testing for all coworkers and any care providers that must enter our facility. Additionally, residents with any potential exposure or symptoms will be tested. We continue with our strict infection control practices, routine screening for symptoms, and overall mitigation efforts.

We have restricted visitation at this time except in certain compassionate care situations. I encourage families to take advantage of written, phone and electronic communication during this time of increased protective measures.

Independent Living

We have 2 cottage residents that tested positive for COVID-19. They isolated in their unit initially and then were both transitioned to recover in our specialty care area in the health care center. One resident was transferred to the hospital and is currently admitted for advanced care.

We have 1 staff member from our dining services department that has tested positive and is expected to recover next week.

In compliance with the Governor's temporary orders, our Café will offer pick up or no contact delivery, our pool and fitness center will be closed, all fitness classes will be offered remotely through Zoom, and the Chapel will be closed for services.

I pray that you and your families stay safe in in the coming week.

Blessing to you all,

Lisa Defibaugh
Executive Director