

# **HOMEWOOD** *AT MARTINSBURG*

**A Continuing Care Retirement Community**

May 18, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

Greetings to all. This week the new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control has allowed for many changes within the independent living areas of our campus. As the restrictions are lifted for some, the health care and assisted lifestyles areas of our community must wait on guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Department of Human Services prior to any changes.

We have worked hard to eliminate COVID from our campus and have made great strides; however, today during our weekly testing we learned that 2 of our coworkers from our health care center tested positive for COVID-19. Subsequent to this news, we identified one resident who also tested positive. In accordance with the current Pennsylvania Department of Health guidance, our Springfield Unit and Countryside Halls 2 and 3 will be on isolation precautions to mitigate any potential spread of the virus. We will be temporarily suspending regular visitation for the next 14 days while we conduct testing to ensure there are no other cases.

I share with you below a brief update of COVID and reopening activity for each level of care on our campus.

### ***Health Care Center***

#### **Springfield Unit:**

We are caring for one COVID positive resident in our designated COVID 19 isolation area on the unit. The resident has only mild symptoms at this time. The coworker from this unit who tested positive is isolating at home.

Within this unit we have implemented the highest level of isolation precautions to mitigate any potential spread of the virus. We will be pausing regular visitation for the next 14 days while we conduct testing to ensure there are no other cases.

We have temporarily paused regular visitation at this time and I encourage families to take advantage of written, phone and electronic communication during this time of increased protective measures. Compassionate caregivers and compassionate care visits are permitted.

#### **Countryside Halls 2 and 3:**

One of the coworkers who tested positive worked on this unit. In response, this area will be on the highest level of isolation precautions to mitigate any potential spread of the virus. We will be temporarily suspending regular visitation for the next 14 days while we conduct testing to ensure there are no other cases.

Compassionate Caregivers and Compassionate Care visits will continue. We will also offer video and phone visits to keep families and residents connected during this time. We will provide in room services and activities for the residents.

### **Countryside Hall 1, Tenley Rehabilitation Unit and Waterside Units:**

These units remain COVID free and will continue with dining and activities without restrictions.

### ***Assisted Lifestyle***

Our Assisted Lifestyle community continues to be free of COVID. We are progressing with our reopening plans. Fully vaccinated residents may have group activities and dine together without masks or physical distancing as long as everyone is fully vaccinated; masks and physical distancing are required under all other circumstances. Unvaccinated residents must continue to physically distance and wear masks.

We offer vaccination clinics twice per month for any new or existing residents who wish to be vaccinated.

### ***Independent Living***

On May 13, 2021, the CDC issued guidance that physical distancing and masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated persons indoors and outdoors. As we align with the new guidance, we will be lifting occupancy restrictions in our independent living community spaces including the café, pool and fitness center. Below is a brief description of the guidance and direction for us here at Homewood.

- For fully vaccinated people, masks are not required in outdoor and most indoor settings and physical distancing is not required.
- For unvaccinated people, masks are still required in outdoor and indoor settings and physical distancing guidelines are required.
- Each person is still responsible for their own safety and if you are unsure of the vaccination status of others or have health concerns, then you may continue to wear a mask and practice physical distancing.
- Independent Living residents and visitors that enter any assisted living or healthcare setting, or other designated area, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, **MUST** wear a mask and physically distance.

It has been over a year since the first wave of restrictions were put into place and while this new guidance is welcomed, I understand these changes are a lot to absorb. I encourage you all to be safe.

My best to you all,



Lisa Defibaugh, Executive Director