



Dear Residents, Families, and Volunteers;

August 31, 2020

Greeting to you all on this last day of August. As we prepare for the transition from summer to fall, I realize that we are 183 days into our response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It has been a challenging experience for us as a Continuing Care Retirement Community, but also for our country and internationally. We have learned so much over these past several months and I am thankful for all of the support we have received during our response to the virus.

We continue to follow the guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and associated regulatory agencies. Blair County is currently experiencing a spike in COVID-19 cases, many are related to nursing homes and group gatherings. This is of great concern to us and we ask for your help keep our campus free of the virus.

I am including a brief overview of our reopening status for each level of care. Reopening steps will be halted if our County becomes red, or if our campus has a positive COVID-19 case.

Independent Living

Currently, most of our Independent Living activities have resumed with indoor group size limited to 25 people or 25% occupancy to comply with orders by the Governor. We continue to require masking when indoors, a social distance of 6 feet, and encourage diligent hand hygiene. We ask that residents adhere to self-isolation recommendations after travel to any hot spot location, a known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, or while having any signs or symptoms of illness. We also ask that you evaluate the risk associated with visits from family and friends, and limit their exposure to other campus residents.

Assisted Lifestyles

In Step 3 of reopening, social activities in our common areas have resumed and are only limited by the requirement that we maintain 6 feet of distance between residents. Masking and hand hygiene continue to be required for all activity outside of one's apartment. The size of our Olive Branch Café and Kathy's Place patio allow us to have more social interaction and activity. Bingo, crafts, and social gatherings of many kinds have been a long awaited joy for the residents. Bus trips are very popular and are being scheduled weekly.

Over →

Visitation can be scheduled at several outdoor locations and we have designated our coffee shop as an alternate area in the event there is inclement weather. All visitors must be screened over the phone when scheduling the visit and again when arriving to the visit. It is important to schedule visits in advance so that we can meet all of the requirements for safe visitation.

We continue to offer compassionate care visitation for those who are critically ill. These visits are schedule through Mandi Cottle, our Assisted Lifestyles Director. You may reach her by calling (814) 793-1303 or by email at alcottle@hmwd.org.

Health Care

Our Springfield and Countryside neighborhoods are in Step 3 of reopening. Residents on each unit are enjoying social activities in common areas and outdoors. All activity requires social distancing of at least 6 feet, masking and hand hygiene. We are very excited to resume picnics and bus trips!

Step 3 visitation requirements remain in place at this time. We have several outdoor visitation areas and two indoor visitation areas in the event there is inclement weather. We continue to schedule compassionate care visits as those needs arise. Visits must be pre-scheduled to allow us to follow all safety measures. Visits require pre-screening, monitoring, and time to properly sanitize visitation areas between visits. We ask for your patience as we attempt to accommodate the many requests for visitation.

It is important that you do not visit if you have recently traveled to a hot spot area, have had a known exposure to a COVID positive person, or are experiencing any signs or symptoms of illness.

I pray you all enjoy a safe and happy September. I will send updates as changes occur to keep you all informed.

Sincerely,

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

Lisa Defibaugh, Executive Director