

March 6th, 2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

We know some of you may be concerned about the spread of COVID-19 (the new coronavirus) being reported in the media and how it may impact our community. Please know that ensuring residents are cared for in a safe and healthy environment is our greatest concern. Given the vulnerability of the population in our communities, some state agencies are advising that we treat this like the flu and allow you to visit if you have a good faith reason for doing so. Below are some examples of how you can help protect the residents, as well as prevent the spread throughout the community:

1. **Please do not visit this community if you have had any symptoms of influenza-like illness or GI illness within the last 72 hours, including:**
 - Fever or feeling ‘feverish’/ Chills
 - Cough/sore throat
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Severe muscle aches
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Stomach cramps, diarrhea or loose stool
2. **Please return for a visit to the community only after you have been healthy and free of all symptoms for at least 72 hours (without the use of a fever-reducing medicine).**
3. **If you choose to visit at this time, please:**
 - **Use the alcohol-based hand sanitizer that has been provided** to clean your hands before *and* after the visit (or use soap and water).
 - Please visit only the resident you have come to see.
 - **Practice good respiratory etiquette.** Always use a tissue when you sneeze or cough and clean your hands immediately afterwards.
4. **Arrange to be vaccinated with the current seasonal influenza vaccine**, if you have not already done so. Please call your healthcare provider or your local health department to learn where you can receive the vaccine.
5. **If you have traveled outside of the United States in the last 30 days, we request that you refrain from visiting at this time.**

We have infection control protocols in place and continue to stay up-to-date with CDC and local health department information and recommendations. Maintaining our residents’ health, wellness, and safety remains our number one priority.

Sincerely,

Kelly Carter
Executive Director