



April 13, 2020

Greetings everyone,

Hope you had a peaceful weekend. Our virtual Easter check-in with Mom yesterday at noon included my three sisters, two nieces, my son, my husband and me! Isn't technology amazing! Mom even asked for a screen shot she could put up on her fridge. All of our heads in little boxes bouncing around the screen. She was thrilled. It got a bit chaotic with us all talking at once, which isn't unusual in any way, but virtually, it was even more pronounced. No wonder my dad was a quiet guy. He likely couldn't get a word in edgewise! At celebrations and holidays like Easter, he'd just sit at the head of the table nodding with a big grin on his face. Sometimes we even suspected he had turned off his hearing aid because it all got to be too much noise! But he'd just smile and take us all in. Like you, I wish we could have been together, but this was still a pretty nice way to connect. Hope you found a way to "be with" your loved ones as well. This isolation will pass. Hopefully in the not too distant future.

There have been some questions about if and how an Independent Living resident can review your Advance Directives and COLST forms. Our recommendation is that you reach out to your PCP directly, discuss options and make changes, and then get Gretchen Roberge and the Wellness Center a copy of any updated forms.

Please remember to report any symptoms you may be having to the Wellness Center: Cough, sore throat, fever, respiratory symptoms. It is very important that we start monitoring you if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. Err on the safe side and let us know. Please!

Thanks to Meagan Buckley for the following update on how Health Services has been planning for a COVID case in Linden. Here is what she wanted to share:

Linden Residents:

We have been busy the last few weeks developing and executing this plan. Also, this week we completed a Federal Survey Audit of our Infection Prevention and plan around COVID-19 and no areas of improvement were identified; great news!

What do we do if a resident in Linden tests positive for COVID-19?

Any residents testing positive for COVID-19 will be moved to the new Isolation “Bubble” section on Cedar. We have created an isolation area that can accommodate 1-3 residents and, if needed, can expand up to 9 resident homes. This area will have added plastic barriers creating a “bubble,” with locations identified for staff to don and doff personal protective equipment (such as gowns, gloves, masks and eye protection). All of these homes are ready for use. Residents with positive COVID-19 will be isolated to a room in the bubble.

We have worked with Environmental Services to ensure equipment is functioning, and all prepped with cleaning material. We have worked with Dining Services on how meals will be safely provided. We are currently finalizing the clinical “hub” so we are ready and can limit access to this space to essential direct care staff only.

If this occurs, we will be shutting down the elevator and stairwell near the Salon, except in case of an emergency. There will be signs to re-route any traffic.

Who will care for these residents? We plan to have dedicated staff to care for these residents. We have a core group of staff that are prepared and are continuing to train and prep the rest of the clinical staff should an increased need arise. There will be no visitors to this location, and no exceptions made. We will make available accommodations for the staff working with these residents so they don’t have to go home at night if they would prefer to isolate from their families and loved ones.

Independent Living Residents:

An IL resident that has suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will self-isolate in their home. They will only be admitted to Linden if they are unable to manage safely at home and have emergent health concerns. We will provide detailed review of this on Tuesday’s update. Stay tuned for that!

Finally, I have received a few questions about how our neighbors have been informed that our campus is closed. I sent a letter to all residents of Ridgefield two weeks ago. Again, if you run into anyone trespassing on Wake Robin property, please feel free to respectfully ask them to leave or to call Security.

Stay well everyone. Thanks for your cooperation!

Martha



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President and CEO