



April 3, 2020

Well Happy Friday everyone! I was looking back and it was March 16th when we entered our RED phase. 16 days ago! On the one hand it feels like yesterday and on the other, it feels like we've been at it a while and it's becoming a new normal. That's all thanks to you. I appreciate all your flexibility in these chaotic times. I also very much appreciate your suggestions and feedback. To some, our precautions are not tough enough; for others we are asking a bit too much. And that's to be expected. But our leadership team meets every morning for at least 1 ½ hours to discuss what we are learning from the Department of Health, other nursing homes and CCRCs, the CDC and other partners in order to make what we believe are the best decisions to ensure your health and safety. Our intentions are always good. I hope you trust that. For the most part, I think we have struck the right balance for the current state of the crisis. Still holding with no cases on campus and no presumed cases on campus. If that changes, you will be the first to know.

So, the latest news from the team:

Tweaking the menu process

Menus will be put on each door now, including in the apartment buildings. They will be on your door between 9:00 and noon. Please circle or highlight the items you want and put the menu back on your door by 4 pm so we can collect them.

Sunday's menus will be taped to your door, but after that we will be using magnets. We're just waiting for the magnet order to come in.

Compostable containers

As you well know, we are using many more compostable containers and the overflow volume is showing up in our Green Rooms. We urge you to flatten your containers wherever possible to help make the volume more manageable. We have also arranged for an extra weekly pickup from our hauler.

Phase 3

The developments over the month of March have had a significant impact on the Phase 3 construction progress.

While we were under the green and yellow lights, the COVID-19 practices put in place for staff were mirrored with all subcontractors. Under the green light, we implemented increased screening before the work day started. Under the yellow light, we shut down work in Linden and limited the work zones to the lower level Community Center, the attic and work being done outdoors. There were exceptions, specifically the fire alarm system, essential HVAC work, door access controls and the nurse call/wander management system In Linden.

When we went to red, so did the governors of Vermont and New York. Most subcontractors pulled out immediately, but the exceptions noted above needed to be completed. As of Wednesday, April 1st, the Lecesse team has left campus and will not return until we all receive further guidance. If you see a contractor on campus, it is to address something critical to our life safety systems. In these cases, we continue to screen and limit access.

The same approach has been used with the contractors we use for home renovations or any other work on campus. For vendors that are critical, like those that deliver food and supplies or haul our trash away, we are screening them daily and have limited their need to be in any of our buildings. We are seeing the effects the changing landscape is having on them as well. Reduced staffing for these companies increases the chance of confusion and simple human error. Patience and grace on both sides of the fence will be especially important in the coming weeks.

Locking Buildings:

Our team discussed specifically locking Hornbeam and Butternut this morning. We heard from several residents who use mobility aids and who were concerned we might be closing off their route to the Community Center. So we will leave

Butternut and Hornbeam unlocked. Also, would like to ask that when you are entering the Community Center, you take care not to inadvertently allow a “tailgater” to enter who shouldn’t be there. That is someone who enters on your key. We’ve had a few instances of late and it makes it hard for front desk staff to corral visitors through our screening process, if they should even be on campus.

Package delivery:

When a package is delivered, we are going to let them sit a day so we’re comfortable delivering virus free packages. If you are expecting a package that can’t wait 24 hours, please call the front desk. ES/Security can certainly accommodate the one-off requests.

Just again a reminder, please report any and all illness symptoms you may have to the Wellness Center and your primary care doc. These include cough, fever, shortness of breath. It’s important that we start monitoring you closely as soon as possible and get you tested if the Wellness Center or your doctor feels it’s warranted. Thank you!

Susan Donnis asked that I shared this article from The New York Times. According to Susan, “This is the best article I’ve seen on Mental Health during the isolation of corona virus. Excellent!” Hope it’s helpful to you.

Mental Health in the Age of the Coronavirus: The struggle between fear and comfort. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/opinion/mental-health-coronavirus.html?smid=em-share>

The good news is Saturday Night Movies are back! Many thanks to Jena for figuring out how we could offer commercial movies on our WRTV channel! This week’s movie is KNIVES OUT. Tomorrow, Saturday April 4th on Channel 919 at 7 PM. Please note the earlier start time. (See written Cup for more info on the movie). Tune in at home on your own TV’s to our closed circuit channel 919. I watched this movie just last week and it was lots of fun! A modern whodunnit! Enjoy!

I hope you have a restful weekend. See you all Monday!



Martha E. Maksym
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