



September 11, 2020

Greetings everyone,

A somber day of reflection in our country today. Even 19 years later, 9/11 is a very poignant date for us all. Blessing and prayers to everyone who suffered from the tragedy that day and in the days following. I read Garrett Graff's [The Only Plane in the Sky](#) after his Wake Robin program and it again reminded me of the amazing feats of courage and selflessness exhibited that day. And of the extreme loss and sadness. Let's never forget.

Not too much to report today. We had an unexpected site visit from our federal regulators on Wednesday, looking at our infection controls in Linden. We were in "substantial compliance" and no deficiencies were found. Kudos to all the staff for the great work keeping our Linden neighbors safe and healthy.

Don't forget that Lobsterfest is just around the corner - next Wednesday! Sorry we can't be celebrating together, but at least we can still get our end of summer lobster fix in. I've been binging on take-out lobster rolls from the North Hero House all summer and I can't get enough of it. Enjoy.

And remember, our IL residents are welcome to gather for coffee, dinner, drinks in groups of 6. You don't all need to bring your own food or utensils. Just use good hand hygiene protocols and no passing around a bowl of olives for everyone to stick their hands into! Toothpicks work great in that scenario! Hopefully it's not too difficult for folks to find a nice outside space to gather near your homes. And the back deck off Maple Dining room is always available as well.

We are continuing to work on our Phase 3 plans to have Linden more opened up for the residents. As I write, Meagan is on a call with our Health Dept. colleagues about what is required. One thing we know for sure is that we will need to be doing periodic COVID testing of all staff in Cedar and Juniper. Meagan is working to secure a lab to process our tests. More to come on that as our plans solidify.

Today is a happy day on campus for our exceptional staff. We received a Hazard Pay grant from the State of Vermont and today are issuing those checks to our employees. \$2000 for those who worked more than 216 hours between mid-March and mid-June (and are still employed here). \$1200 for those who worked between

68 and 216 hours during that time (and are still employed here). We are very happy to be able to provide this extra financial boost for our most deserving staff members! If you see a small spring in their steps today, this may be why!

I understand that the WRRRA is about to release the results next week of the Living with COVID survey. I'm looking forward to getting your feedback once it is officially made public. Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback. I hear over 70% of IL residents responded and many from Linden. That's an amazing response rate! I'm sure there will be lots for me to learn and absorb.

Going to sign off now so I can log on to Matthys' program at 2:00 pm. Seems like a good way to spend an hour today.

Stay well everyone. Have a peaceful weekend.

Martha

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Martha', written in black ink.

Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO