



May 7, 2020

Hi everyone,

Well, I know you all have been eagerly awaiting some loosening of the current restrictions you have been living with for the past several weeks. The Directors met yesterday and discussed what we felt comfortable easing and what we would like to keep in place. We will be reviewing our restrictions **weekly** and will make additional changes as circumstances and State guidance allow. Please bear with us.

A few considerations in our decision making that I want you to be aware of:

While the Governor yesterday started loosening some restrictions on outdoor activities, he also stated: “Older adults (age 65 and over), and people with underlying medical conditions, like heart and lung disease or diabetes, are more likely to develop severe illness. They should continue to shelter in place, and family and friends should do everything they can to help keep them safe.”

While you all have been isolating for several weeks and are likely “healthy,” our staff are still leaving campus every day. We are trying to limit staff exposure to residents, but that’s not fool proof. Also, there are residents leaving campus for doctors appointments more often, since some elective medical procedures are being allowed. These neighbors are potentially exposed to the virus when off campus. So, we ask that you continue to wear masks when in groups or around staff.

We do not want to get ahead of what the Governor is allowing. So, for example, until salons are open, we won’t consider opening our salon. Until health and fitness clubs are open, we will likely not open our fitness center. Until restaurants are open, we won’t be opening the dining room.

We also want to watch if the virus spreads in the county and state as businesses start to open and other activities are allowed. We must all be prepared to shut back down quickly if the data starts trending in the wrong direction or if we have a COVID case on campus. So, we are being cautious for the next few weeks.

### **Starting today for Independent Living residents:**

- Walking to Meach Cove and biking off campus is fine (as long as you get there by foot/bike; no cars). We ask that folks stay on back roads and away from businesses and crowds. Please continue to maintain safe physical distances from others and always have a mask handy in case you run into other folks.
- Indoor spaces for gathering in small groups are now available in the apartment lounges in Independent Living neighborhoods. We ask that you work with the front desk to reserve those spaces, so we know who is gathering in case we need to do contact tracing at a future date. Please be mindful of the size of your group and keep it to six or fewer depending on the size of the space. The billiards room is also now available to use. Again, safe physical distancing and masks are required. You are also free to gather in outdoor spaces, on porches, etc. We are getting those set up around campus for your enjoyment. Please, no food or drink at any group gatherings as we'd ask you to continue to mask. We ask that you manage disinfecting these spaces and use good hand hygiene and sanitizer.
- Mail pickup can be at your convenience; there is no need to continue with the set times. Just please be mindful of not gathering in large groups and crowding in the Community Center, and please wear your masks.
- Packages will continue to be dropped off at the Security stop, but they will be delivered the same day to your home.
- Outdoor spaces for lawn games and impromptu activities (music, etc.) are being identified and should be available later this week.

- Green Up Day activities along Bostwick Road on May 30<sup>th</sup> can take place. Stay tuned for more info about the plan for Wake Robin to participate along Bostwick Road.
- Other activities that are organized by WRRRA committees per last week's guidelines are fine to continue.

***NOTE: If you have left campus in the last 14 days for any reason you should not gather inside or outside with others.***

**We decided to keep the following restrictions in place for the moment:**

- We ask that all residents remain on campus. The campus will remain closed to visitors. The Security stop at the end of Wake Robin Drive will remain.
- The Community Center will remain closed. We still want to reduce contact with staff and larger groups at this time.
- Dining Room will remain closed and dinners will continue to be delivered to you nightly.
- Grocery ordering will continue as is currently arranged. Instacart orders are also still allowed and the orders will be dropped at the Security stop for delivery to your home.
- Library “take-out” will continue.
- Housekeeping will continue to be on hiatus.

We are keeping a “parking lot” list of items we will be discussing at future weekly meetings. These include:

- Kayaking and golf
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Salon

- Wellness Center
- Housekeeping
- Library
- Fitness center
- Wellness/Fitness classes
- On-campus farmers' market
- Socials
- Small groups in the community center
- Temporary absences for residents and staff (i.e. vacations/trips with an assumed return to the community)

### **For Linden Residents:**

We will be supporting a visit to a resident of Linden from an Independent Living **immediate family member/spouse/partner** next week. We will reach out directly to residents to coordinate a visit, preferably outside with appropriate distancing and masks. *We will not be able to arrange this meeting if the Independent Living individual has been off campus in the last 14 days.* This is only able to happen because of the entire community's efforts to take the correct precautions. We are so grateful for all that everyone has done to stay on campus over the last few weeks. I am not sure if this exception will be allowed to continue after next week, but we will continue to re-evaluate in the future.

### **Finally...**

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, said at Wednesday's press conference that as the state reopens, Vermonters should consider keeping a contact journal – a list of other people who you have been in close contact with each day. If you did get sick, this would make it easier to get in touch with those people and so they can take proper precautions to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Something to consider.

Thanks again so much for your cooperation. As I have said many times, what and when to loosen is a constant discussion among the Directors. I wish you could be a fly on the wall to hear how thoughtful and considerate the discussions are as we reach consensus on next steps. I think you would be proud. While I know that what I am announcing today may not go far enough for some of you, I continue to have the health and safety of the entire Wake

Robin community as my focus and I think we are striking the right balance for the moment. We will continue to reevaluate these decisions weekly and will announce any further changes as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Martha

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha".

Martha E. Maksym  
President and CEO