

April 21, 2020



Dear Independent Living Residents,

*Sometimes you can't see the road ahead but as you keep going, it gets clearer.  
Stay the course as the fog of life dissipates.  
~ Sanjo Jendayi*

As I ponder what the coming months in Ohio will look like, as well as across the nation, I am hopeful yet somewhat uncertain. We know that our nation is moving toward reopening. Governor DeWine is beginning to share plans for how Ohio will reopen. As the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) continue to share with us, it will, in turn, impact Bethany Village's plans for the coming weeks and months. Moving toward reopening is certainly positive news and something many of us having been hoping and praying for, albeit cautiously. Reopening may also bring feelings of uncertainty and questions. These questions may be answered today, several weeks from now or maybe even longer. We serve a population that is particularly vulnerable to this virus. The Governor and ODH will continue to direct the road Bethany Village travels. At the forefront of any action Bethany Village takes will be the health, safety and well-being of our residents. What I can say, today, is the path is beginning to clear and the fog will lift, with time.

I want to continue to reinforce recommendations the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ODH have stressed:

- Practice good hand hygiene and limit touching your face
- Maintain social distancing, staying six feet away from others
- Wear a cloth mask that covers your nose and mouth

When I look out my office window or walk across campus I am proud of the many residents I see wearing a mask as they get their mail, take their dog for a stroll or talk to a neighbor while maintaining social distancing. I applaud you for taking these steps to help keep yourself, your family, your neighbors and our staff healthy and well! These measures will continue to play an important role as the nation continues its path toward reopening. It is important to "stay the course." You should continue these practices on campus and when venturing out in the greater community for essential needs.

Several residents have asked, "Is there a case of COVID-19 on campus?" At the time of writing this letter, I can continue to reassure all of you that Bethany Village does not have a case on campus. A communication plan is in place should that change. We continue to hope and pray that that communication plan will not be needed!

You continue to amaze me in so many ways! Despite any feelings of frustration, loneliness, irritability over loss of engagement and socialization opportunities, you continue to step up. I am amazed at the volunteer tailors who rose to the occasion to make hundreds of cloth masks for our staff and fellow residents. I am amazed at those who have donated money to support our staff and

residents in the licensed areas. I am amazed at the residents who are checking on their neighbors, ensuring they have the basics and are not going without. I am amazed at our caregivers that continue to care for their loved ones in different, more challenging times. I am amazed at the kind hearted generosity of all of the residents who have reached out and said "How can I help?" It is times like these that I am reminded of our sense of community and what we mean to one another!

Take care of yourselves!

Robyn Powell  
Director, Residential Services