



May 5, 2020

Dear Independent Living Residents,

*The decisions you make today can affect your way of life tomorrow.
Always think carefully before making any big decisions.
~ Unknown*

We are on this journey together. The actions we all take, I know in my heart, are with positive intent. I continue to find comfort in hearing the stories of residents checking in on one another or offering a helping hand from a social distance. I am so proud, in so many ways, of the path we have taken, of the choices we have made! We are a community and are doing what communities do best, coming together to support one another in times of need.

It is a cautiously optimistic time as the Governor of Ohio and Ohio's Director of Health lead us in responsibly re-opening Ohio. We have all been waiting and praying for this. However, I am asking that we all pause for a moment and consider our Bethany community. Our residents, across the continuum, are a vulnerable population. In the Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order (the "Order") signed on April 30, 2020, it states:

"People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including elderly people and those who are sick, are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. According to the CDC, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people who are sixty-five years or older and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- a. People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;*
- b. People who have serious heart conditions;*
- c. People who are immune compromised;*
- d. People with severe obesity (body mass index[BMI] of 40 or higher);*
- e. People with diabetes;*
- f. People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; and*
- g. People with liver disease."*

There is a potential for an increase in community spread of COVID-19 as businesses reopen and consumers are permitted to be out and about. The Director's Order defines what business sectors may choose to reopen and how they can reopen. Regarding public and private gatherings, the Order further states, *"any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited unless exempted by"* the Order.

The full Order can be read at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Stay-Safe-Ohio-Order.pdf>.

Again, I am proud to share, we continue to have zero positive COVID-19 cases among Bethany Village residents and staff. That is, in my opinion, a remarkable feat and something to be proud of. This speaks volumes about our policies and procedures and our dedicated and diligent employees. This also speaks volumes of the decisions and actions you have taken throughout this journey. I applaud you and ask that you continue to exercise caution and consider our vulnerable community members as you have been.

As we look to the future, we at Bethany Village are continuing to discuss and plan for what the next steps of this journey look like. Dining Services is discussing arrangements and plans for when dine-in services are resumed. The Life Enrichment Department is exploring what engagement opportunities may be offered and how those will function in the future. Conversations are occurring as to how the Fitness Center will operate and what the Beauty Salons on campus will look like. These plans will evolve as further direction and best practices are provided by Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton. Bethany Village will continue to take a conservative approach, given our population, in “responsibly re-opening” our campus.

I will leave you with words you have heard and read from me and our administration many times since the beginning of the pandemic. Continue to social distance, wear a cloth mask, be diligent in your hand hygiene and refrain from touching your face. This journey we are on is not an easy one, but we got this. You got this!

Take care of yourselves and stay well!

Robyn Powell
Director, Residential Services