



October 29, 2020

NOTICE RE COVID-19

Dear Assisted Living Residents, Family Members, Guardians and POAs,

I am reaching out to you today to provide a COVID-19 update. Since the emergence of the highly contagious novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in March, we have implemented numerous protocols designed to protect our residents and staff. As health experts and officials learned more about the nature of COVID-19, many of those protocols have changed. At the moment, the number of COVID-19 cases continues to grow for most of the country. Our local community, like the rest of the state of Ohio, is unfortunately trending upward.

In response to the increasing number of cases, the Ohio Director of Health mandated biweekly COVID-19 testing for all staff working in Assisted Living programs. In order to stay in compliance, Bethany Village has been testing 90-100 staff in each round of testing. So far we have conducted three rounds of testing. In our most recent round of testing, one Assisted Living staff member tested positive. The staff member did not display any physical symptoms and has since been quarantining.

As we move forward, we will report our COVID-19 cases in four categories: Assisted Living Resident, Assisted Living Staff, Nursing Home Resident, and Nursing Home Staff. The results are posted on our COVID-19 update page, www.bethanylutheranvillage.org/covid-19-preparedness-update/

We have taken steps and will continue to take steps to reduce the spread of infection.

Knowing that our assisted living residents are at the highest risk, we have implemented a number of measures designed to protect our residents and staff. We have shared several of these steps in past weeks: implementation of a temporary no in-person visitation policy, staff screening of temperatures and any symptoms of illness, and enhanced cleaning procedures. All Bethany Village staff wear surgical masks and eye protection. We have implemented enhanced isolation for any resident showing any symptoms of illness or with potential exposure. We continue to comply with all new measures informed by guidance from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Bethany Village has an infection preventionist on staff that regularly monitors infections and illnesses for residents. Additionally, in early March, we designated a nurse to track employee illnesses so that all employees were being tracked by a single person.

We will not be sharing details publicly about positive tests.

Please know and understand, if we need to contact a family member with updates about a specific resident, we will reach out to them directly. But, please note that out of respect to those affected and their families and, in accordance with privacy laws, we will not be sharing any personal details regarding Bethany staff or resident positive cases publicly by name but will submit information as required by



the CDC, ODH and local Health Department. We have connected with the local health department several times to refine our planning and response process.

Contact us with questions.

We understand that this health crisis is particularly challenging for you. We empathize with your feelings of separation and vulnerability, and we want to thank you for your ongoing support and trust. Again, let me assure you the safety and well-being of every resident and employee is of the utmost importance. It is vital to our continued strength as an organization. If you have any questions about COVID-19 or the steps that we are taking to protect our residents, please contact Bethany Village Administrator, John Brinkman, at jbrinkman@graceworks.org or by phone at (937) 436-6849.

We want to keep you up-to-date and we need your help to reach you more rapidly. Many have already shared their email address. However, if you have not please share your email address with us. This one step will allow us to reach you with updates on the many steps we are taking to take care of our residents at this difficult time. **You can share your email address by sending your name and resident's name to emailrequest@graceworks.org.** We will post updates regularly on our website. Additionally, we post updates on the Bethany campus digital screens. For those that live at Bethany Village, we will also put a message on BV-TV. Because conditions can change quickly and new government regulations are added daily, letters in the mail will not provide you with the most up-to-date information. Again, please keep checking our website since that is where we will be posting the most current information: www.bethanylutheranvillage.org.

One last thought.

I can assure you that we are working diligently to ensure the safety, well-being of our residents, families and staff during this world health crisis. We continue daily monitoring of the information provided by the Ohio Department of Health and the local health department. Our Leadership Team communicates daily to review protocols and review any changes that might need to be made based on the briefings from the Governor. Additionally, we have, and continue to follow all CDC recommendations and guidelines and have very clear protocols in place for all our Bethany Village and Graceworks employees.

Sincerely,

John Brinkman
Bethany Village Administrator