March 17, 2020

For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, providing the best possible care, and protecting the health and wellness of residents and employees is of highest priority. We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation very closely to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures to protect our community and are working closely with the Washington Department of Health and Center for Disease Control (CDC).

On Sunday, **March 8th**, we were contacted by the CDC informing us of a positive case of COVID-19 among one of our staff members. The staff member had promptly followed protocol by self-reporting symptoms as soon as known, went home immediately, and has not returned to the workplace. While we have not received notification from Public Health, the CDC or medical providers of any other employees testing positive for COVID-19, we do have other employees who are reporting illness. Late in the evening on **March 16th,** we were devastated to learn that a long-term employee had passed away in the hospital where she was being treated for COVID-19 infection. Our hearts go out to all who are affected by the COVID-19 virus, but specifically to the family and friends of this beloved staff member. The entire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ community grieves this tragic loss.

Monday, **March 9th**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ received a support visit from a CDC team to review our infection control protocols and practices. We were pleased to have received positive feedback on our proactive efforts. During their visit, the CDC team also identified a select group of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ residents that they recommended be pro-actively tested for COVID-19. Those 11 residents consented (or their responsible party consented) to the testing and were tested the morning of March 10th, by CDC staff. All 11 residents tested were under isolation precautions prior to testing, and continue to be cared for at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ using those isolation and infection control protocols. Test results for the 11 residents were received from King County public health on **March 11th** and **12th** with ten negative results, and one positive test confirmed. We did receive confirmation on March 12th from the medical provider for an independent living resident that the resident has tested positive for COVID-19. That resident is following their medical provider’s instructions to self-isolate for 14 days. As of **March 16th**, we are not aware of any other Independent Living residents that have tested positive; however, residents in Independent Living would need to authorize their medical provider to release that information, and may choose not to do so. We continue to work closely with the CDC as they monitor these, and other COVID-19 patients in our region. In compliance with HIPPA, as noted below, we will not be releasing any protected information about residents, including their names and ages.

In consultation with the CDC and the Department of Health, acting on their guidance, in conjunction with the Governor’s emergency proclamations and CMS’s Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes, the following practices are in place to help prevent the spread of this virus:

* **All** visitors and non-essential health care personnel are restricted from visiting the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life situation. In those cases, visitors will be limited to a specific room only.
* **We are respectfully requesting NO visitors at this time to campus**.
* **We are restricting necessary visits to adults only**
* All activities on campus have been cancelled.
* Transportation for grocery and other shopping has been suspended; residents are encouraged to order groceries online for delivery, or pick-up and delivery by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ staff. Transportation to individual medical appointments is limited to medically necessary office visits; residents are greatly encouraged to use telehealth options with their medical providers if at all possible.
* Dining rooms throughout campus are also closed; all meals are being delivered or provided by carry-out.
* Elements Day Spa has suspended services.
* Frequency of disinfection of high-touch surfaces in common areas and in the health center has been increased.
* Housekeeping Services in Independent Living Apartments have been suspended.
* All employees, residents, vendors and necessary adult visitors are being screened with Washington Department of Health recommended health questions at the front entry.
* All employees, vendors, and necessary adult visitors who do not pass the screening questions are not being allowed on campus.
* Every person arriving on campus is required to have their temperature taken upon arrival. Should a fever be exhibited they will be asked to leave campus, or to self-isolate in their home on campus.
* All essential health care personnel working within the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ assisted living and skilled nursing are being screened for signs and symptoms and temperature taken **before** and **after** their shifts.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ residents who test positive for COVID-19 are placed on isolation measures and treated using isolation protocols.

As we continue efforts to contain the spread of this virus, staff and residents are asked to self-monitor their health closely. Staff who note any flu like signs or symptoms are required to notify their supervisor immediately and will be sent home. Both staff and residents experiencing symptoms should contact their primary health care provider, and isolate themselves to the extent possible.

Residents and staff are urged to follow the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for prevention of any viral respiratory illness, including frequent hand washing, practice of good cough etiquette, advising those exhibiting any symptoms of the virus, or in direct contact with those exhibiting symptoms (sore throat, cough, fever) to remain at home until symptom free for 48 hours.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work diligently to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of residents and staff. As this is a rapidly changing situation we recommend for the most current information about COVID-19, visit the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, Department of Health <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>, or King County https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx websites. We have also established a COVID-19 message hotline at 425.556.8187.