



April 21, 2020

Dear Apartment and Cottage residents,

At 4pm on April 20, Governor McMaster updated his Executive Orders. He took steps to return the decision about beach closures, as of noon today, April 21, 2020, to the various towns and cities. Know that he didn't say they were all reopened, but gave towns that privilege. He added that people visiting from designated "hot spots" of our country and the world are still not allowed to use our hotels, etc.

He also gave a defined list of "certain small retail businesses" permission to reopen as of 5pm yesterday, April 20th. These businesses include: furniture and home-furnishings, clothing, shoes, and accessories, jewelry, luggage and leather goods, department, sporting goods, books, craft, music, flea markets, florists and flower stores. They did **NOT** include: Restaurants, Fitness Centers, or Salons.

He made it clear that the gathering of groups of 3 or more individuals continues to be a criminal offense, and the various units of law enforcement are still authorized to disperse these groups. During the Q&A he said this even applied within these retail store locations.

To be very clear, he said that we are "**still in a very serious situation**" and this virus is "**deadly to our older citizens**" and that we need to continue to be "**strict with social discipline.**" Still Hopes takes these comments very seriously. Our mission is to be a safe haven to our residents, and to our staff. We will therefore take deliberate actions, to slowly open up our venues and services as the time is right, using an extremely conservative approach.

If you listened to the Governor's press conference, you heard the reporters question him again and again if he was moving too fast and taking too much risk. Still Hopes management heard all of those concerns and we know that they will mirror many of the concerns of you, your family members, and our staff members, so we will move slower than what you will see from the State of South Carolina. We don't have the same pressures to get the State's economy going. The Governor does have that pressure. Please cooperate with us as we work to take the best and safest steps, at our own pace, and know that we are likely to move slower than the State as a whole. I'll remind you that this virus is just as deadly as it was before. The virus is not gone. Dr. Bell, with DHEC, said that South Carolina has now seen a "few days" of plateau in the number of new cases of virus, not a sustained decrease. The people we serve (and many of us who still work here) are in the category of those most vulnerable to serious outcomes if we contract this illness, so it is only prudent that we take our time, plan carefully, and come out of this whole, and in good health, if at all possible.

Thus, at this time, we are **not** reopening any venues, nor changing any of our protocols. Thank you for your patience, and please, please, keep on socially distancing and staying safe and healthy.

My final comment for today is that I do **NOT** think any of you should be making your way to these reopened businesses at this time. Just because they are open, does not mean they are safe for you. Please think about waiting a while longer before heading to the beach, or even to a furnishings store, gift shop, or a clothing store. The virus, remember, is as deadly as ever. Keep the faith and keep up your guard.

Be safe. Be happy. Be well!

Danny Sanford, Still Hopes CEO