



May 15, 2020

Dear Still Hopes Family,

This week DHEC undertook to test all the skilled nursing residents and all the staff that works inside our nursing home neighborhoods, for COVID-19. At this writing (3:45pm on Friday) we have received results for just under 250 of the 300 samples that were collected. At this time, I can report to you that we have gotten NO positive reports back. I always hate to put out a letter on Friday afternoon, when I will not be walking around to take questions easily, but I thought this as well as some other important information I need to share warranted the risk of the “hit and run” letter. Thank you for allowing me the courtesy of doing that this one time.

As you know, DHEC not only asked for Still Hopes to do this testing, but they mandated it for every skilled nursing home in the state. A local nursing home called us today to let us know that one of our very part-time employees, who works full-time for them, has tested positive for COVID-19. This does have some ramifications for us. The worker last worked on our campus on May 11, and the employee has worked with two of our apartment residents. Each of the residents also has a spouse, so there are four individual residents that have been exposed, to some degree, to the employee. These residents and their family members have been contacted and each of these residents will be tested now. Remember, at this point we know that these residents have had some exposure to a person with the illness, but we do NOT know if the residents have it. Each of the four residents has been quarantined within their apartment and will remain so until we are certain that they are either free from the illness, or until they are confirmed with the illness and are moved to appropriate care placement.

So you know, the CDC insists on all HIPAA privacy rules being followed. That means neither the names, nor any information that would allow a resident to be identified, can or will be shared with you. Beginning now, per the CDC guidelines, we will notify any person entering our buildings that we have a potential exposure of COVID-19 in our buildings. Do know and realize that we do not know that any of these four individuals actually have the virus, only that they had some exposure to a person who does have it.

Beginning on Monday (perhaps some earlier) you will see all our staff members wearing paper procedural masks. Two reasons for this: 1) we were able to acquire enough for us to do that and we think we can continue to get enough to stick with the plan, and 2) we want to assure all of you that our staff are keeping their distance from you. We believe that taking these precautions on our side (for example, housekeepers) by wearing a procedure mask will help keep you safe. We do continue to recommend that each of you also wear your cloth masks when you are around other people that you do not live with, unless you have a medical condition that makes that counterproductive.

Finally for today, Denise has asked me to let you know that our decision to have all staff in masks, in order to keep you as safe as possible, will make it impossible for her and her staff to continue the exercise program on each apartment floor. She knows that she would not be heard or understood and she also knows that her breathing would be too impeded. She will be increasing the number of classes available to you by your television.

Stay safe my friends and know that we will always do the best we can to provide for your safety and your wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Danny Sanford, Still Hopes CEO