



# STILL HOPES

Episcopal Retirement Community

August 20, 2021

On Thursday, August 19, we completed a second week of testing for all our apartment and cottage residents, as well as the staff who work on the “non-licensed” side of our campus. From that testing effort we have received some great news. All the residents we tested were negative! Staff testing done this week found three staff members testing positive. These staff members are not at work and appropriate tracing has been completed.

This week, one of our apartment residents did test positive, and in fact was showing some significant symptoms. This resident was not part of our large group testing effort. They were tested at another location and the results were relayed to us immediately. Unfortunately, as I pen this letter, I have learned that the resident (who was fully vaccinated) has died. This news is heartbreaking for us all. It seems that only 12 of our residents came into contact with the resident, and the tracing for those exposures is being done now. If you have not been contacted already, you were not exposed. If you were contacted, and therefore did have some exposure, we will be asking that you refrain from any group activities for the next several days, and all the appropriate precautions will be in place for these 12 individuals.

With the attained results, I believe we can restart some of our recently suspended activities and I will attempt to address each of these inside four broad categories. Those categories are: General, Culinary, Activities/Life Engagement/Healthy Dynamics, and Wellness. The guidelines below include a few restrictions that seem prudent for now, given the increases in cases in our Lexington County community, as well as the new resident case and the three staff cases.

I do ask for your vigilance in keeping yourself safely away from COVID exposures. I also ask for your diligence in keeping your protective activities strong- wear your masks, wash your hands frequently, keep your distance, and isolate yourself if you think you could be ill. Finally, I thank you for your prayers and for your words of encouragement to me and to all our staff. Still Hopes is the best place I have found that any of us, residents or staff, could be as we live through this very significant and incredibly trying time. We definitely are better together!

## General-

- Guests who are unvaccinated may visit residents inside their apartments or cottages ONLY. They must wear a mask as they travel to and from the actual residence, while inside any building. They are not permitted in any common space, other than what is necessary to move to and from the resident’s residence.
- All vaccinated guests MUST wear masks in our common areas unless they are actively eating or drinking.
- All residents, vaccinated or unvaccinated, MUST wear masks in our common areas unless they are actively eating or drinking. We will watch this restriction closely, with an eye toward removing this restriction at the earliest possible time that is reasonable.
- We strongly suggest that your guests purchase the Abbott Rapid Test Kits from a local drug store and do a self-test prior to any visit here. If the test comes back positive, they should NOT visit our campus, but should seek medical attention from their physician.
- No guest should make a visit to our campus if they have ANY signs or symptoms of illness, or if they have had contact with a person who may have or actively has COVID. **NOTE: With the Delta variant,**

**signs and symptoms may be mild and present more like the common cold such as cough, fever, or headache, with the addition of significant loss of smell.**

#### **Culinary-**

- For now, we will continue the buffet service every day. Sunday evenings will also offer the full buffet offerings. As this is able to change back to the à la carte dining option, a separate memo will be sent to detail exactly how that will work.
- We will suspend food and beverage services for the various activities held around campus (other than meals served at mealtimes). Masks, worn over both the nose and the mouth will be required at all times when at activities on the campus, which necessitates suspension of snacks and drinks for now. This will be evaluated weekly, with an eye toward getting events, with food and snacks at those events, restarted as soon as conditions warrant.

#### **Activities/Life Engagement/Healthy Dynamics-**

- Group activities will resume, but masks will be required for participation, and if you have ANY signs or symptoms of illness, you are asked to refrain from attending. Should you attend an event and show signs or symptoms of illness, you will be asked to leave.
- Certain planned trips are being rescheduled for a later date. There is a definite notion to attempt to keep all our residents out of harms way as schools restart and as we head into another holiday weekend. We will watch how the community at large is doing with the resurgence of virus and will make every reasonable effort to get outings back on the schedule, and to reschedule the events that are being temporarily suspended now.

#### **Wellness-**

- Fully vaccinated people are the ONLY people who may use the Wellness Center at the present time.
- Wellness classes will resume as prior to the two-week hiatus, except that for now masks will be required to be worn at all times you are in the Wellness Center. Evidence shows that your body is not deprived of oxygen by wearing a mask, even if you feel like that is the case. It is obvious that the masks make you feel hotter, and that is certainly a hardship, but one that is necessary for the next few weeks. We will work to remove this restriction as soon as is reasonable.

Special Note: If you have any health changes, do report these to Tacey Gohean, our Community Services Director. She can be reached at: 739-5047.

Thank you for your help and support,

*Danny*