



Dear Apartment and Cottage Residents,

I have some exciting news to share with you about, 1) your vaccinations and quarantining, and 2) the positivity rates for our own Lexington County. Then I'll share a bit about how this impacts our newest family members, the HopeWell Residents.

### **VACCINATIONS & QUARANTINING:**

Any of you who have received the second dose of the two-dose series of Moderna vaccine here at Still Hopes will soon be able to NOT quarantine if you have an exposure to COVID-19, so long as you meet all three of the following CDC established conditions:

- 1- You have had the second dose and at least two weeks (14 days) have passed since that second dose was given
- 2- You are within 3 months following the receipt of your second dose
- 3- You have remained asymptomatic since you were most recently exposed to COVID-19

Simply said, this means you will have a window opening up on February 20<sup>th</sup>, and continuing through May 5<sup>th</sup>, when you will NOT need to self-quarantine if you have an exposure to COVID-19. That is UNLESS you begin to show symptoms of COVID-19, in which case you would then need to self-quarantine. (Note: If you took your second dose on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, instead of the 5<sup>th</sup>, your dates are three days earlier than what I just said.)

The BIG question: **Why is it a “window” that closes back in three months?** I do not have a perfect answer for that, but can assure you that these are the three stipulations the CDC has enacted at this time. I would hope that the window will be opened wider as we get a few more weeks into this new vaccinated world we are only just now joining. It is my feeling that the CDC is feeling their way into this relaxing of the quarantine rules and that they are using an abundance of caution. Look for all these stipulations to continue to change in the coming weeks and months. We will keep you abreast of them.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Per the CDC, the new relaxed rules for quarantine do **NOT** apply to any licensed area in SC. Thus, quarantine protocols for the assisted living and skilled nursing areas will continue to remain in full force.

### **POSITIVITY RATES:**

Last week, DHEC revised the way they calculate positivity rates for each county, with the result that their methodology now seems to match up very well with the methodology used by the CDC, whose rates we have been using for our own decision making. With that change, Still Hopes will begin to use the DHEC numbers as of next week to make our own decisions. If all holds true, we can then open back up to some communal dining. The masking, social distancing, and hand hygiene rules will all continue to apply, per the CDC.

A word of caution to you: The DHEC website will make it harder for you to land on the exact date points we will use. We will be looking at the Lexington and Richland County rates. If you are not careful, you can end up seeing the Lexington City rates, or the South Carolina entire state rates, so if you choose to track this with us, be careful to view the correct information breakdowns. We will let you know the rates each week, so you don't need to try to figure out their site, unless you just want to.

## **HOPEWELL RESIDENTS:**

The above changes will also impact the lives of the new residents of the HopeWell Building, as they begin making their moves to Still Hopes. The plan is to move not more than one family a day, and we will not be doing any Sunday moves. It has been our intent to ask these residents to self-quarantine to the HopeWell Building for their first several days with us, and while that is the way we will begin as of Monday of next week, this practice will end as of February 20<sup>th</sup>, as they will then be 14 days past the date of their second vaccinations, and they will not be subject to automatic quarantining. Still, we will apply the three rules outlined early in this letter, and if they fail to meet all three criteria, they will be asked to quarantine according to our then current rules (the CDC keeps changing these as well).

This breaking news is certainly something we had **not** anticipated, and it is not what we have put our operational plans together based upon. That means we will be revising our plans over the course of that first week of moves (next week) and we will be announcing those revised plans late next week.

As for the week beginning on February 15 and continuing through the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will ask the HopeWell residents who move in to remain in their HopeWell Building, and we will be taking food to them inside their building. We will also be asking any of our current residents to only use the HopeWell Building to access the Shearouse Center for Wellness, and not to linger in the HopeWell Building for that one week.

It should be that once we get to Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we can arrange some apartment tours inside HopeWell for you to take (providing you have had both your vaccine doses and 14 days has passed since your last dose) and we should be able to allow those of you who meet the three criteria, to visit in the building as you please.

This wrinkle will create some angst for our Culinary Department, and for our Activities/Life Engagement Department, as they have put their plans in place for: 1) the soft opening of the Emilie's Café, which is inside the HopeWell Building, and 2) Activities for the quarantined residents, that this new information could impact significantly. As a result, we will create a new soft opening plan for Emilie's and for Activities, and we will share these as soon as we have it put back together.

Thank you all for being such good sports as Still Hopes continues to navigate the choppy waters of the new Pandemic Ocean in which we all find ourselves these days. Your flexibility and understanding has been, and continues to be, stellar. It does seem that the new path being made with the changes brought on by the vaccination regimen we have been through are now bringing some light back into the day and maybe the choppy waters will calm for us sooner, rather than later.

Peace to you all,

Danny Sanford, CEO