

**TO:** Still Hopes Apartment and Cottage Residents

**FROM:** Danny Sanford, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 3, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Updated Coronavirus Guidelines

On March 31, 2020, our South Carolina Governor held a press conference where he laid out his latest Executive Order. In that Executive Order he closed a lot of “non-essential” businesses. Of course, Still Hopes is not one of those, so we continue on, as we have for 44 years now, and as we will for 44+ more.

Important to note, however, are a few things that were also discussed at that conference. The good Doctor from DHEC shared some less than good news. She told us all that **the virus is now understood to be spread by people BEFORE they have ANY signs or symptoms.** That means you could go to the grocery store, or the drug store, or over to the home of your children, and you could bring the virus back with you, having picked it up from a 100% seemingly healthy person. If that happens, with all the social “not-so-distancing” that I witness many of you practicing daily, you could spread the infection to your friends and neighbors, totally unawares. That would not be a good outcome, considering all the hard work and good efforts being expended to protect you all from this deadly illness.

Additionally, one of the reporters in the room asked the Governor why he was not shutting the state down, like so many others had, and why he was not telling folk to stay at home. The Governor’s response, paraphrased here for sure, was: I don’t know what to do if all I’ve said in these many meetings we have done does not tell people to stay home. **He went on to tell us, looking right into the camera, to STAY AT HOME. He said, go to work for sure, but then, GO HOME.**

So, taking all this discussion into account, along with visits and comments from stressed neighbors of yours, please know that this is the direction and expectation of Still Hopes to all of us – meaning residents and staff alike.

- PRACTICE GOOD SOCIAL DISTANCING OF A MINIMUM OF 6 FEET, ALL THE TIME.
- DO NOT STAND OR SIT NEAR ELEVATORS, DOORWAYS, OR STAIRWELLS WHERE OTHERS, ATTEMPTING TO SAFELY USE THOSE CONVEYANCES, CANNOT REMAIN 6 FEET FROM YOU.
- STOP ALL CONGREGATING IN ANY AND ALL COMMON AREAS OF THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Lowry's Coffee Shop (Get what you need, stay 6 feet away from others, move on.)
- Corridors (Travel 6 feet apart from others and use them to get from A to B.)
- Elevator lobbies (Keep clear for elevator users, so they can keep 6 feet apart.)
- Card rooms (Don't use these as there is no way to stay 6 feet from others.)
- The Atrium (Use **IF** it is available while maintaining the 6 feet distancing rule.)
- The Shoppe on Main (One resident at a time will keep us safe.)
- The Lounge (Use **IF** it is available with maintenance of the 6 feet distancing rule.)
- The Library (Use **IF** it is available with maintenance of the 6 feet distancing rule.)

It is fine to use these spaces as a single person, but you simply cannot continue to gather in these spaces in groups. No bunching up or clustering. This is for **YOUR** protection and the protection of your neighbors.

Some are suggesting that we stop all traveling away from the campus, and then returning. I can tell you that there are a few communities across the country that have implemented this precaution. Like our Governor, I want you all to practice safe measures of social distancing here on campus and when you go out and about. I do not want to stop you from making important trips to essential services, but I do want us to take this pandemic seriously enough to conduct ourselves in safe and compliant manners to the Executive Orders that have been issued. Thank you for your voluntary cooperation and please help all of us be safe.