



May 13, 2020

Dear Still Hopes Family,

Over the next 24 to 48 hours we expect to receive results from DHEC on the 298 COVID-19 tests they required from our nursing home's residents and staff members. We await these results with very mixed emotions, as we anecdotally hear about "lots of asymptomatic cases" around the country. We do know, without any doubt, that we do not have a single person among us who is showing any signs or symptoms of the COVID-19 illness, but we do not know what to expect regarding asymptomatic cases that may express themselves as we receive the test results.

I tell you this now, because these test results we will receive in just a day or two will inform our next steps regarding Still Hopes' journey back to normal operations. In preparation for this upcoming "next phase" of our action plans, I will be appointing a small workgroup of individuals to formulate a plan to get Still Hopes safely to the other side of our current, highly restrictive, operation plan. This group will be called **Operation Safe Journey**.

**Operation Safe Journey** will most likely meet by the end of this week for an organizational meeting and likely will work in smaller sub-groups to help us determine answers, and plans, for the who, what, when, and how questions that presently exist.

**Operation Safe Journey** will include a variety of, but limited number of, Department Directors who are responsible for the various venues we have closed or that have highly curtailed activity. In addition to these, we will bring a handful of residents to the workgroup. I have hand chosen this small group of people, based on my knowledge of their abilities to think broader than their own self-interests, to best assure us all that the thoughts and ideas of the resident group at large will be represented and a wide range of opinions and conditions will be thoroughly discussed and taken into consideration. Should you not be asked to join this group, please do understand that I am aware of far too many residents who could do this job well to ever have the chance of including them all. Likewise, while I value the opinions and expertise of every Department Director, I cannot put together an effective workgroup with that many people, for two reasons. First, a group too large cannot come out of the discussion phase and move to a recommendation phase, leading to analysis paralysis. Second, the group must be able to meet effectively, while maintaining social distancing to help assure the safety of all participants.

Over the course of the next week, May 18 through 22, I expect we will be able to begin to announce certain returns to normalcy, but please do understand that every step we take will be with a serious overriding consideration to the safety for our residents.

You live at Still Hopes because you value a high quality of life, and you believe that life is worthy of being lived well. I value the decision you have made and I pledge to always honor and respect your right to get every single drop of that high quality of life you came here to

experience. In the short run, these slow-downs of wellness (social, physical, spiritual, mental, etc.) venues, and the inconveniences of take-out dining, have worked against that highest quality of life plan we strive to implement, but in the long run, I think it highly likely that at least some of us, perhaps you yourself, will be afforded more time to enjoy more quality of living than we could have achieved, or will achieve, by ignoring this deadly virus potentiality among us.

Journey on; stay safe; keep others safe; live to tell the story.

Sincerely,

Danny Sanford, Still Hopes CEO