



To: All Still Hopes Staff Members

From: Danny Sanford, CEO

Date: January 5, 2022

Subject: Temporary Dining Venue Closures

Still Hopes Staff,

As you are very well aware, there has been a very significant COVID surge over the last few weeks. The Lexington County positivity rate is at almost 28%, which is the highest it has been since the pandemic began almost two years ago. Your fellow staff members are not immune to this surge, and we are unfortunately dealing with a good number of staff members who are either experiencing COVID symptoms, having a COVID exposure, or testing positive for COVID. This is occurring frequently, even among fully vaccinated staff members.

A good number of these staff members work in our Culinary department, which is why we must temporarily close Caroline's Café and Emilie's Café. This must be done so we can consolidate the Culinary staff we do have and successfully run as many of our dining venues as possible. The decision to temporarily close Caroline's Café was made late last night, and we have just made the decision to temporarily close Emilie's Café through next week. Caroline's Café was closed as of this morning, and Emilie's Café will be closed as of tomorrow morning. This means both of these dining venues will hopefully reopen on Monday, January 17.

In the meantime, the Palmetto Dining Room and Lowry's Café will remain open and we will do all in our power to assure you have a good experience in these venues. We hope you will find it satisfactory to get your meals at either of these venues while we weather this recent storm. **One important note is that if you work in a neighborhood that is on isolation protocols, you can not leave your neighborhood to purchase meals.** Arrangements will be made to have meals brought to you to ensure your own safety and the safety of those around you. Please speak with your Director or Supervisor if you need more details.

I long for the day we are past these sorts of limitations and service issues, but we simply aren't there yet. I can't thank you enough for the grace and support you have shown your Still Hopes family over the past two years. We will get through this rough patch together, as we always do. Thank you and God bless.