



May 19, 2020

Dear Resident, Staff, and Family,

United Methodist Homes Hilltop Campus remains concerned for the ongoing welfare, safety, and health of our residents and staff. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect all businesses posing significant concern among senior living facilities. As indicated in prior communications, we have been diligently following and implementing all precautionary measures set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and have been working with the Department of Health.

Our commitment to you since the very beginning of this pandemic has and remains to keep you all well informed. We want to update you on the current situation in our James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home (JGJ). Up to this point, we had remained COVID-free in our nursing home. However, last evening, we were made aware of our first positive case among an employee of JGJ who last worked on unit one on May 10th. The employee developed symptoms on May 11th, had not reported to work since May 10th, and acquired testing in which results came back positive for COVID-19. As a precaution, we have increased our surveillance of symptoms for all residents which includes monitoring of symptoms and checking temperature each shift as well as continued and proper use of personal protective equipment to prevent any spread. The entire unit was placed on Enhanced Droplet-Contact Precautions and all infection control protocols continues. All residents and families of the nursing home have been notified.

As parts of our country begin talking about re-opening business and communities, we, however, must continue to implement every precautionary measure to protect our residents and staff which includes the continuance of visitor restrictions, suspension of group activities and communal dining. In addition, not only will we continue to actively screen all employees prior to the start of each shift, we will now be testing all full-time employees twice per week and once per week for part-time employees as mandated by the NYS Department of Health. In addition, as recommended by the NYS Department of Health, we are also actively planning the testing of nursing home residents by unit for COVID-19. Nursing staff will be contacting nursing home resident families to explain the procedure and obtain consent. The testing recommendation for nursing home residents is only a one-time occurrence unless the resident should later develop symptoms.

We remain appreciative of all the support and understanding we continue to receive. We want to remind everyone to continue to do all you can to help us fight COVID-19 in our communities by following the recommendations set forth by the CDC: Social distancing, washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, wearing a mask in public, self-isolating if showing any signs or symptoms, and seek medical assistance as necessary. Please feel free to reach out to me at 607-798-7818 ext. 210.

Sincerely,

Ron Patti

Executive Director Hilltop Campus