



September 16, 2020

Dear Family Members of Messiah Lifeways® at Messiah Village Residents,

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of testing, quarantining, and updating operations as we've adapted to new regulatory guidance from CMS and PA Department of Health, and worked with epidemiologists to mitigate the small outbreak in Residential Living. Although some items are likely to change by the time you receive this letter, I would like to give you an update on where we stand today and our anticipated road ahead.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING (Independent)

As mentioned before, Messiah Village experienced a small outbreak of the virus, concentrated in one of our residential living apartment buildings that began on August 13, 2020. As of this date, 10 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since that first known infection. We've been working closely with epidemiologists from PA Department of Health, our Infection Preventionist, and Medical Director to implement a swift mitigation strategy that has focused on targeted group testing, contact tracing, and quarantine. Targeted testing of the Tuscarora side of Village Commons revealed two additional positive cases after the first round on September 5; one additional positive case after the second round on September 8, and we are hopeful for no additional positive cases after the third round on September 15. Until those test results are returned, Village Commons remains closed to non-essential visitors.

Since all indicators suggest that the current outbreak has been contained, **Village Square has now reopened, effective September 15, 2020.** Please note that this does NOT apply to Village Commons until further notice. This means that most operations in Village Square will gradually resume as they were before the stay-at-home directive was issued as a precaution to halt the spread of the virus on August 27:

- Visitors may return to Village Square; however, please respect social distancing and mask guidelines, and do not congregate in large groups.
- Residents of Village Square and Cottages may meet in common spaces in small groups; please respect limited room capacities to allow for social distancing and mask usage.
- Cafe 100 and Kathryn's on the Square are offering take out and limited dine-in seating in addition to delivery.
- Cerise Day Spa will resume appointments for Village Square and Cottage residents only.
 - Wellness (fitness center and pool) will reopen on September 21
- Non-essential services may resume
 - Housekeeping will return to a regular schedule beginning September 21

We will continue to post updates on our public blog (MessiahLifeways.org/blog/coronavirus), so be sure to check there for the most up-to-date information.

VISITATION IN VILLAGE CENTER (Enhanced Living & Nursing Care)

We understand how difficult this time apart from your loved one has been, and we know that, even when limited visits through Connection Booths resume, they in no way take the place of unrestricted visitation. Messiah Lifeways is committed to keeping your loved one safe, active, and well-cared for, and we join you in

hoping and praying that this difficult season will soon come to an end. If you have questions or are dissatisfied with the regulations described below, please feel free to reach out to the PA Department of Health directly.

Connection Booths & Scheduled Outdoor Visits: In consultation with the Department of Health and out of an abundance of caution, we suspended Connection Booth visits on August 26 in response to the outbreak on campus and extended the suspension due to the positive cases identified in Enhanced Living. Thanks to successful mitigation efforts, we remain on track to **resume scheduled visits on September 21**. Please continue to work with the social worker in your loved one's neighborhood to schedule these visits.

Compassionate Care Visits: On September 3, 2020, the PA Department of Health released updated guidance related to "Compassionate Care" visits in long-term care facilities. The updated guidance is meant to recognize the toll that separation during the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on loved ones, and allow a very limited number of residents who have experienced significant decline due to this separation, to receive visitors. The regulations associated with these visits place the responsibility on the facility (in this case, Messiah Village) to identify which residents qualify for Compassionate Care visits and communicate with their loved ones to arrange this. The release of this information has caused some confusion, and the guidance is lengthy. To help clarify and communicate our implementation plan based on this guidance, please reference the information sheet enclosed.

ENHANCED LIVING (Personal Care)

Similar to the targeted retesting strategy in Residential Living, Enhanced Living has completed its third round of retesting after one asymptomatic positive resident and one asymptomatic positive team member were identified through universal baseline testing on August 24 and 25. We are glad to report that all test results from this most recent retest on September 8 were **negative**. Therefore, no further testing is needed in Enhanced Living at this time, and we remain on track to resume Connection Booth visits on September 21.

NURSING CARE

New guidance has been issued by CMS and the Department of Health outlining an ongoing testing strategy in long-term care facilities. All team members who work at least once a week in a Nursing neighborhood will now need to be tested on a regular basis; the frequency of testing is determined based on the rate of COVID-19 activity in the county.

Right now, the positivity rate in Cumberland County is less than 5%, therefore we will be testing one time per month, and asymptomatic residents do NOT need to be tested. If the rate increases to 5% or above, the frequency will increase, and some residents may be included. Messiah Lifeways conducted its first monthly round of testing on September 10 and 11 -- thankfully, all of these results have come back negative.

Messiah Lifeways is very thankful for all of the team members, residents, family members, and volunteers who have supported the organization in the fight against the spread of COVID-19. Please feel free to continue to check MessiahLifeways.org/blog/coronavirus for the most up-to-date information on our COVID-19 response. Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and cooperation during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,



Curt Stutzman, President & CEO