



COVID-19 Update

June 12, 2020

This week, many of our communities shared some of their creative solutions to begin to allow family visitors at their communities. They are designating specific spaces and ensuring they are cleaned between visits, setting up outdoor spaces with seating at appropriate distances, and making even further adaptations to their community life to help loved ones stay connected. Obviously, we are taking these steps gradually and carefully in hopes that there will be no ill effects for our residents or staff.

Among other creative solutions to help people stay active while staying at an appropriate distance, Spring Lake Village has set up a par course around the campus with 17 different stations and 36 exercises. You can learn more about it on the Covia blog: <https://covia.org/blog/spring-lake-village-creates-new-par-course/>.

In our Skilled Nursing Facilities, baseline testing for all residents and staff is almost complete with no positive cases of COVID-19 discovered so far. Our screening process for employees has also proven its worth as one employee at SFT, out of the building since May 14, recently returned a positive result. However, as SFT's Executive Director Christina Spence notes, "Our sick policies allow employees to stay home when they are not well. This prevents employees from returning to work while they might be infectious, which helps to stop the spread of the coronavirus." This is an important reminder that fair labor practices are of benefit to everyone.

This week, the Task Force focused in particular on providing guidance regarding staff vacation time. As Chief Operating Officer Ron Schaefer notes, this is a marathon that we have been sprinting for almost three months. "We have to encourage and allow our team members to take time off from work so they can let down from the intensity, refresh their body and renew their spirit." We have shared protocols to provide guidelines and resources for managers and their direct reports.

We received a beautiful letter this week at c19info@covia.org, written by the Russian-speaking tenants of Bethany Center Senior Housing who shared stories about the selfless work of the staff. "We consider them our true heroes, they were on call every minute of the day and night, regardless of their personal needs. We saw how tired they were, but with every new day they were again fulfilling above and beyond their call of duty." They asked us "to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Rafael Zamudio and his team as well," and we are pleased to do so.

Have a great week.