



## RETIREMENT CENTERS, INC

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To Members of the Homewood Family:

In addition to the latest on testing, in this update I will share about our efforts to begin relaxing some of the restrictions currently in place at our communities.

For weeks, Homewood's leadership has been requesting additional COVID testing for residents and staff without symptoms. We have believed for some time that the virus is being introduced and spread by individuals without any known COVID symptoms. Until recently, Homewood was only allowed testing kits for individuals with verifiable symptoms. Soon after I completed last week's update, we began having conversations with the Maryland National Guard and Department of Health and Human Services. As a result, we are in the process of completing testing for all residents in our Frederick and Williamsport nursing home and assisted living facilities. In addition, all staff currently working or having the potential to work in these facilities will be tested. The testing will be completed today at Frederick and early next week at Williamsport. It will take a few days to get the results, and the dashboards on our Coronavirus webpage will be updated to reflect those results. Because so many staff are being tested at one time and there is the potential for several non-symptomatic staff to test positive, we are shoring up our contingency staffing plans.

Another component of our conversation with the National Guard was the inspection of our protocols and facilities. As a result, a 15-member team of experienced doctors, nurses and other uniformed officers from around the country arrived at our Frederick campus. Their arrival was a bit intimidating for our staff but, in the end, a tremendous validation of the team's work. After a thorough interview with local and corporate leadership and a tour of the facility, the team expressed that Homewood was the best facility they had inspected. In addition, they stated that they struggled to provide any additional recommendations and were convinced that we genuinely care for our residents and each other. The support of the National Guard, Health and Human Services and Frederick County Department of Health has proven invaluable. On Monday, another team will arrive at Williamsport.

We are also investigating additional testing opportunities at our Pennsylvania communities and hope to have more to report next week. Fortunately, we continue to have no COVID-positive residents or co-workers at any of our Pennsylvania communities.

While I am convinced that the increased testing is an overall good, and even necessary, step, more frequent testing is needed. In an effort to secure more frequent testing, I recently reached out to the President and CEO of Abbott Laboratories, Robert Ford. Believe it or not, he responded as I was writing this update. We are now in the process of arranging a conversation about acquiring Abbott's rapid molecular ID NOW COVID-19 test. This could be a major step forward in our battle to eradicate COVID in our communities. I will update you on this effort in a future update.

As we obtain more resources and support in our effort to eradicate this virus from our communities, we are devoting more time to outlining a safe path to re-establishing access to services, amenities and campus visitors. With the state governments of Maryland and Pennsylvania moving toward reducing their Stay at Home orders, we are constantly thinking about what that means for Homewood's residents and families. Because our top priority is health and safety, we must take a number of factors into consideration as we begin to "open up." Factors such as specific data regarding community spread of the virus, CDC and other guidance provided by health officials, and unique circumstances at each Homewood community will be considered as part of our planning. I know many of our resident families and friends are anxious and losing patience with the no visitor policy currently in place at our communities. Please understand while we support this policy, it is not an option but a mandate by the states where we operate. As our plan is defined and implemented, we will be providing community-specific updates on our Coronavirus webpage ([Homewood.com/Coronavirus](http://Homewood.com/Coronavirus)).

This update contains some positive news. And that's my intention. However, this battle is far from over. This week, our Frederick co-workers have faced some of their greatest challenges yet. The virus has spread among residents with dementia where it is the most difficult to contain and the most deadly. Some residents have died this week, taking an emotional toll on their families and their caregivers. We take this into consideration as we reopen our communities thoughtfully and carefully. Moving forward without careful consideration could cost us the lives of those we love and place an incredible burden on our co-workers and their families.

The accolades of this week's inspectors give us all additional reasons to be proud of our courageous co-workers but don't in any way diminish the burden they are carrying. Our corporate team met with many of our Frederick caregivers on every shift last week. I wish everyone could have heard their stories of courage and fear for their own health and that of their families. We cannot let our guard down now. They need our support and prayers today as much as ever before.

I again leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul:

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26 ESV

In your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thad Rothrock". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Thad Rothrock  
President & CEO