



RETIREMENT CENTERS, INC

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To Members of the Homewood Family:

This week we have made a great deal of progress toward comprehensive testing of residents and co-workers. Comprehensive testing continues to be an important element of our plan to resume programs, services and visitation.

The National Guard and Health and Human Services have completed their assessments of the Williamsport and Frederick campuses, and the outcome is very encouraging. In both locations, the inspection teams of more than a dozen doctors and nurses were complimentary of our staffs and our protocols. They found no deficiencies and offered few recommendations for improvement.

At Williamsport, COVID testing of residents and co-workers is underway. It could be a few days before we get the results. We are very proud of our Williamsport team, and, as with the team at Frederick, they impressed the inspectors.

At Frederick, 432 residents and co-workers were tested. No residents in Assisted Living tested positive. Three Health Care residents tested positive as did 16 co-workers. Two of the residents from the Willows dementia unit had previously tested negative, and the other, from the Meadows, had earlier tested positive. Among the co-workers who tested positive, twelve were asymptomatic, illustrating once again the value of comprehensive testing. Even with comprehensive screening practices in place, testing is the only way to identify these asymptomatic carriers who may have the potential to unknowingly spread the virus.

We now have five active resident COVID cases in the Frederick Health Care building, all of whom appear to be recovering well at this time. Sadly, we are grieving with the families of the three residents who passed away this week. COVID-19 has been particularly hard for our residents diagnosed with dementia. Every day we ask ourselves what more can be done to protect them. We are encouraged by the test results, which were much better than the National Guard anticipated. We have no other COVID positive residents or co-workers at any other Homewood community.

We are grateful to the National Guard, Department of Health and Human Services and the state of Maryland for providing this round of testing, which will help us better contain the virus. Pennsylvania is in the process of developing testing plans, and we should have more information about testing at our three Pennsylvania campuses in the coming weeks. In addition, we are making significant progress in acquiring testing through private labs.

So, where does this leave us in terms of opening up the communities to various programs and services our residents have been patiently doing without? We have developed a phased "reopening" plan for each Homewood community with a specific set of criteria for each phase of opening. It is our intent to place each community's reopening plan and current status on our Coronavirus webpage in the near future.

Some activities, such as visitation from the outside, are still under the control of the state and local authorities. We will, of course, follow their instructions. For those areas where we have discretion, we are gradually bringing back some semblance of normal life. But we will do it conservatively and with the overall interest of health and safety as our primary guide. Our executive directors will continue to communicate these changes to residents and co-workers as they occur. Your patience and prayers as we begin the slow and careful normalization of operations are appreciated.

Once again, I leave you with this words written by the Apostle Paul:

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
Romans 5:3-5 ESV

In your service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thad Rothrock".

Thad Rothrock
President & CEO