

April 03, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Aldersbridge Communities:

Although I don't want to tempt fate, I am pleased to report that to date we do not have any cases of COVID-19 among our residents and staff. We are doing everything in our power to avoid bringing the virus into our communities.

I recognize the great sacrifices so many residents and family members are making, by not being able to visit with loved ones. Staff members are also making heroic sacrifices, picking up extra shifts and spending time away from their own families.

Here are just some of the ways we're working to keep everyone safe:

- At Winslow Gardens, Arbor Hill and St. Germain assisted living locations, we are following the RI Department of Health's (DOH) recommendation for nursing homes by cleaning "high-touch" areas of the buildings every four hours, such as door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, etc. At Linn Health and Rehabilitation, our housekeeping staff is cleaning high-touch areas every 30 minutes.
- All direct caregivers across our communities are being supplied with surgical masks, per the RI DOH.
- Our assisted living staff is also wearing masks, although the RI DOH has not recommended it yet.
- We have requested that families no longer bring meals to residents or pick up and return laundry. This helps to limit opportunities for the virus to enter the building.
- We are carefully screening staff who work more than one job. At this time, we have no employee overlap with any other nursing home or congregate living facilities that have had positive tests.
- Any resident who is admitted or readmitted from the hospital into our care is being placed under quarantine for the first 14 days. Although this can be stressful for a resident, it is absolutely necessary to keep everyone safe.

As a care community, we are reporting to the RI DOH daily the number of empty beds we have, as well as our inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE). Right now, we have few empty beds and an ample supply of PPE. We know our state leaders are preparing for a surge in COVID-19 patients in area hospitals about two weeks from now. They are looking into the potential of having one nursing home location that can be converted to care for just COVID-19 patients. There are at least two RI nursing homes that have close to 50 residents infected with the virus – perhaps the state will consider taking over those locations.

Our staff is doing a remarkable job, coming to work day after day, while taking care of themselves and their families as well. Many staff have elderly parents and young children at home. I would like to give each staff member homemade cloth masks that they can distribute to their family members. If you know how I can get homemade cloth masks for distribution, please let me know.

Thank you, and stay safe.



Richard Gamache, MS, FACHCA
Chief Executive Officer



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Aldersbridge Communities is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We are an equal opportunity provider of elder housing and healthcare.

