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To:

All Residents and Staff

From:

Al Allison, President & CEO

Subject:

COVID-19 Update

Date:

April 30, 2020

I wanted to provide you with an update and an overview of all that has transpired in our dealing with COVID-19. This is a timeline of significant steps we have taken (based on guidelines, recommendations, and directives from the CDC, CMS, and the PA DOH) in our efforts to prevent and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus to and within the Baptist Homes Society campuses.

- On or about March 5, 2020, we restricted visits of international travelers and any others with signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection.
- On March 5, 2020, we distributed written information to all staff regarding signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and proper handwashing techniques, use of hand sanitizing agents, proper cough and sneezing etiquette, and the need to abstain from coming to work if they felt ill.
- On March 10, 2020, management and clinical staff from both campuses met to develop a COVID-19 response plan for addressing the possibility of caring for COVID-19 positive residents and having staff test positive for COVID-19. Policies and procedures were developed to guide our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On or about March 14, 2020, we suspended all group dining, group activities, and other events on both campuses.
- Effective March 14, 2020, we began screening of all staff, visitors, and vendors upon their entering buildings on both campuses (taking temperatures and asking about signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection).
- Effective March 14, 2020, we stopped all visitation in skilled nursing, personal care, and memory support on both campuses, except for end-of-life situations.
- Starting on March 16, 2020, we had daily calls with the entire Leadership Team to address any and all issues with COVID-19. On April 18, 2020, these moved to calls three times per week.
- Effective April 3, 2020, having been able to obtain sufficient quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specifically surgical masks, we issued masks to all staff members and required them to be worn while at work.
- Testing for the COVID-19 virus was very restricted and not widely available in early April. Therefore, we investigated alternatives and entered into an agreement with MHS Labs on April 7, 2020, because of their ability to provide testing kits and perform testing on a timely basis.
- On April 8, 2020, we were informed that one member of the Providence Point (PP) nursing staff, and one PP contracted therapy staff member had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

- On April 9, 2020, we conducted COVID-19 testing on residents who had been in close contact with these individuals. Two PP skilled nursing residents tested positive for COVID-19. These residents were moved to a COVID-19 specific 7-bed pod in the skilled nursing facility, and were cared for by a dedicated COVID-19 care team as per the plans we had developed for this eventuality.
- On April 10, 2020, we were informed that one Baptist Homes (BH) nursing staff member had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
- On April 16, 2020, a PP Memory Support resident, who had been treated by the COVID-19 positive therapy staff member, also tested positive for COVID-19. This individual was also transferred to the COVID-19 care pod in the PP skilled nursing center.
- Due to the availability of COVID-19 testing through MHS Labs, on April 9, 2020, we began testing all health care residents and staff who had been in close contact with anyone who had tested COVID-19 positive, or was presumed to be COVID-19 positive.

Between April 9, 2020, and April 29, 2020, we conducted COVID-19 testing on approximately 535 residents and staff members. Due to additional testing being conducted and the results of some tests still pending, these numbers change on almost a daily basis. The current results of this testing are displayed below.

## **Baptist Homes Campus**

Residents tested 110 tested (all skilled nursing residents) – All residents were negative for

COVID-19

Staff tested 112 tested – 111 were negative, 1 staff member was positive for

COVID-19

## **Providence Point Campus**

Residents tested 132 tested (all skilled nursing, personal care, and memory support

residents) – 129 were negative and 3 were positive for COVID-19

Staff tested 181 tested – 168 were negative and 13 were positive for COVID-19

We have no residents or staff members who are exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 at the present time.

One of the residents who tested positive has passed away, although not directly related to COVID-19. The other two residents are recovering from their COVID-19 infection. No staff members who have tested positive have been permitted to continue to work. To our knowledge, all of our staff members who tested positive are doing well in their recovery and some are currently being tested to return to work.

To summarize, with a total of about 755 residents being served on both campuses, three residents testing positive means about 0.40% of our residents have tested positive for COVID-19. With a total of approximately 656 staff and contracted staff members, 14 staff testing positive means about 2.13% of our staff members have tested positive for COVID-19.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and compliance with all of the measures we have had to impose due to COVID-19. Hopefully governmental restrictions will ease in the near future and we will be able to begin to return to a semblance of our normal operations.

God bless you all.