



489 Castle Shannon Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15234

To: Residents and Staff
From: Alvin W. Allison, Jr., President & CEO
Subject: Weekly COVID-19 Update
Date: May 14, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AWA", is written over the "From:" line.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Baptist Homes Society remains committed to the fulfillment of our mission. Since our last weekly COVID-19 update on May 7, one Baptist Homes skilled nursing resident and one skilled nursing staff member have tested positive for COVID-19. No residents or staff have tested positive for COVID-19 at Providence Point.

Per CMS guidelines, staff continue to be tested routinely. Residents and staff will be tested if symptomatic or in the event of a positive case. As has been previously mentioned, in the event of a positive case in either a resident or staff member, visitation will be suspended until outbreak testing is completed.

At Providence Point, visitation is open in all areas. Visitation in skilled nursing at Providence Point continues by appointment only. At Baptist Homes, visitation on the second floor of skilled nursing remains temporarily suspended. Visitation on the third floor of skilled nursing is open by appointment only. To schedule a visit at Baptist Homes, please call Sue Lauer at 412-350-9654 Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Visitation continues in Baptist Homes personal care.

The CDC issued new guidance on May 13 allowing vaccinated people to drop their masks indoors, with some exceptions, and outdoors entirely, even in crowds. The Pennsylvania Department of Health acting Secretary Alison Beam announced the same day that the state's masking order reflects the latest guidelines from the CDC. The only exception to the rule is in certain crowded indoor spaces, such as buses, and planes, **and in congregate settings**, such as hospitals, homeless shelters and jails. Since our communities are congregate care settings, masks still must be worn in all skilled nursing, personal care and memory support areas.

The skilled nursing, personal care, and memory support residences continue to follow federal and state mandates. Staff and visitors continue to be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of entering our buildings and must wear a mask at all times while in skilled nursing, personal care and memory support areas on our campuses. Direct care staff must continue to wear N-95 masks.

In order to help to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to keep ourselves, our families, and the residents we serve free from the COVID-19 virus, each of us must be diligent to:

- Wear masks both while at work, as well as in high risk areas or in locations where there may be unvaccinated individuals,
- Ensure mask fits snugly and mask covers both nose AND mouth,
- Continue to wear masks and practice physical distancing of 6 feet or more if you are unvaccinated,
- Continue to observe appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette, continue to wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, and
- Use hand sanitizer frequently when hand washing is not practicable.

Thank you for your continued understanding, cooperation, and compliance with all of the measures that are in place due to COVID-19.

Please continue to keep Baptist Homes Society, our residents, and our staff in your prayers.