

March 18, 2020

To: Delaware Run residents

From: Larry



Driving in this morning from Worthington, there was only a small fraction of the traffic I normally encounter on a weekday morning. It felt like Christmas Day. Things are shutting down out there.

As far as I know, we still have no active cases of the virus at any of the three Willow Brooks – this includes both residents and staff. My team and I are working hard to keep it that way. Toward that end, we are making some decisions that some may find inconvenient but we feel are necessary to protect everyone.

If you live in assisted living, I am asking that my memos be distributed to you, too. Much of the info applies only to independent living, but there is some that you should know as well. I am happy to share. And, I stand ready to hear your questions and lamentations, too.

Effective tomorrow, we will stop cleaning twins and apartments. This is a temporary measure while we are in the virus crisis. Two reasons for this: We anticipate staffing shortages as this thing heats up. It may be “all hands on deck” for essential services. Second, we feel this is one area where we can cut the chance of virus exposure, protecting both directions – you as well as our staff. We view the cleanings as non-essential for now. For apartment residents, a once-a-month cleaning is covered by the monthly fee. We will be reducing fees by an amount yet to be determined to offset this reduction in service. Rest assured that we will be as fair as we can be.

The Water’s Edge and Café 100 remain closed. Meals are being delivered to assisted living residents, and upon request, to those in apartments and twins (call ext. 5770 before 11 a.m. for lunch, before 4 p.m. for dinner).

Due to staffing concerns, we are stopping the Saturday box lunches, effective this weekend. I am hoping that this will be only temporary. I suggest that if the Saturday lunch is important to you that you order an extra sandwich on Friday.

I strongly recommend that you stop traveling by plane, bus, and train. And stay off cruise ships. You are risking infection, and need I tell you? that could be fatal. Even more, you are potentially exposing your neighbors and our staff to unnecessary risk. If you decide to travel anyway, we will ask that you self-quarantine in your home or apartment for 14 days. Take your temperature morning and evening. Anything above 100 could mean trouble. We will still deliver meals, and we will be able to help with apartment mail delivery. I am asking our wellness nurse, Carol Roden, to monitor.

We are implementing similar restrictions on staff who continue to travel during this time of danger. Truth is, many of our staffers are younger folks and would likely recover from the coronavirus. But they could come back and spread their little germs to all of you. You (and I!) are in a higher-risk age cohort and I expect all our team members to respect that.

Apartment resident Richard Vail stopped by my office today with a bit of sage advice: We all need to pretend that we are carrying the virus, and act accordingly.

I will say that if I had any faith in humanity, I'm losing it in these trying days. Have you walked down the aisles of Kroger lately? No toilet paper, paper towels, or box tissues. No macaroni, spaghetti, or beans. You're lucky if you find milk, eggs or bread. Hoarders are filling their trunks and back seats. (Question: Don't milk, eggs, and bread spoil or mold?) These me-firsters care only about themselves. You? Hey, I got mine – sorry about your luck. Janet and I don't live that way, and we just do not get it.

Well, I think that's all the bad news I have for you today. Love you all. Now, go wash your hands.