



March 27, 2020

Timber Ridge Team,

First, let me again say THANK YOU. I know that it is not easy for any of us to come to work with a positive attitude in the face of uncertainty and disrupted routines, but you are here and you are providing comfort, love, and hope to our residents. So THANK YOU!

I want to comment on one change that we made this week. In order to continue to reduce the traffic in and out of Timber Ridge and out of compliance with Gov. Pritzker's stay at home order, we have moved much of administration to the fellowship hall or to work from home. Since then several of us have moved up into the front offices. This is being done in order to reduce the temptation for residents to gather in tight places like offices, and to help encourage them to stay "socially distant" by eliminating some of their regular destinations. Frankly, it is not very comfortable for those of us who moved offices to be further away from all of you as it feels in some ways that we are abandoning you. Please know that we have only moved because we believe it is important to continue to reduce opportunities for the virus to enter the building or be shared between staff and residents. We are still very much available and our phone extensions remain the same.

As of today we do NOT have any positive cases of COVID-19 in Timber Ridge or anywhere else in our agency. This morning all TR residents were fever free. At this time our focus continues to be prevention of a COVID-19 outbreak within Timber Ridge.

This means we must continue to focus on the following areas:

1. Use Good Hand Hygiene: Wash your hands, don't touch your face. By now you know the drill, and if not please see your supervisor for training.
2. Increase Environmental Cleaning & Disinfecting: We have increased our cleaning routines by housekeeping, but ALL staff should disinfect high touch surfaces after themselves.
3. Practice Good Social Distancing: Continue to practice social distancing with residents and each other. Reposition residents at least 6 feet apart in common areas, discourage residents from gathering in small areas, follow break room limits and spacing. No large group activities. If you are not here working, please stay at home.
4. Reduce and Monitor Traffic: We must minimize the number of people who come in and out of Timber Ridge, and anyone who comes in MUST BE SCREENED for exposure and symptoms.

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That may seem like a lot of things to NOT do. Here are some thing TO do:

1. Interact one on one with residents! This happens naturally for many of you, but if you find yourself with a free minute then please spend it with someone one on one.
2. Dress Up! We continue to have some fun themed days planned. It is harder to be anxious or grumpy when you are wearing your pajamas. Or, for a really good vibe put on a CUBS shirt!
3. Have a Heart! As you will notice when you enter the lobby, we have joined the national heart scavenger hunt movement. Great ideas like this are being brought in by staff. You can help by keeping a look out for more ideas to brighten our residents' days and bringing them to our attention for us to implement if we can.
4. Be Encouraged! What you are doing is meaningful, it is important, and it is appreciated. You are loved by our residents and your coworkers, and by a God who always was and still is good, loving, all knowing, all powerful, and in control. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows me, and He knows you. He is not surprised by what we are dealing with today, or by what will come tomorrow. You can be encouraged by that.

Oh... and Kristen wanted me to remind you again... WASH YOUR HANDS! 😊

Thanks for all you continue to do,

Darrell Stoller

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