

ALERT: ACTIVE CASES OF COVID-19

PLEASE AVOID OUTINGS AND INTERACTION WITH OTHERS AT THIS TIME, INCLUDING OTHER RESIDENTS

January 5, 2020

Dear Arbors Residents and Family Members,

We want to provide you with the most up-to-date information regarding the ever-changing conditions and the important and proactive steps we are following to keep our community safe.

Over this past several days, Arbors staff and residents have tested positive for COVID-19.

A total of two residents have now been diagnosed with COVID-19 since December 29th. The newest resident to be diagnosed with COVID-19 (yesterday) has been hospitalized. **Of note, we are unable to identify how this most recent resident contracted the virus.** The resident had not left the campus, had not and had no personal interaction with anyone known to have COVID-19. Simply stated, we cannot identify who passed this virus to the resident. Thus, **all residents, along with the staff/caregivers who are testing weekly**, are possible carriers. These are the first resident cases at Arbors since last Spring.

A total of three staff have tested positive for COVID-19 since December 29th. Two of the three staff cases have been traced back to interactions had with one of the above residents before they tested positive.

All staff, all caregivers, and 62 residents participated in COVID testing today and we wait for the results.

In summary, the cases at Arbors represent the very precarious position for residents and staff. In light of this current situation, **it is imperative that we reinstate restrictive measures to protect those who live and work at Arbors.** We will re-evaluate the situation after receiving results from the latest COVID testing.

1) **We strongly recommend that residents remain on campus and in the safety of their apartments.** Gathering with others, **even with other residents**, should be avoided until no new cases of COVID-19 are present at Arbors.

We also strongly recommend that residents **avoid any place where people gather** both within Arbors and in the surrounding area. These include restaurants, grocery stores, places of worship, retailers, parties, etc. Outings should be limited to essential medical appointments with masks worn whenever in the company of others. We suggest residents consider postponing non-essential outings at this time.

A walk in the hallways or outside is safe as long as you wear your mask over your mouth and nose at all times, maintain a 6-foot distance from others and avoid touching your eyes nose or mouth without handwashing. Mail and package pick up should follow the same precautions.

At this time it is extremely important that we self-quarantine and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

2) To best contain any likelihood of spread and to make the best use of limited staff, we will be limiting staff-to-resident interactions to a minimum. Non-essential work orders will be postponed until community spread is reduced. Any apartment work or maintenance that can be postponed should be postponed until we have no new cases of COVID.

3) Keep your distance and masks on at all time. Please take the health of yourself and others under consideration. Mask wearing over the mouth and nose, keeping at least 6 feet of distance from others, and frequent handwashing, is more important now than ever. Treat all people, including yourself, as COVID positive. Advocate for your health and safety. Please leave your mask on when in the presence of others (leave it on when talking).

4) Get vaccinated. Nursing will be calling each resident regarding the COVID-19 vaccine being offered on Thursday, January 14 (the first of the two-part vaccination). We anticipate nearly every resident will be vaccinating and will ensure all who want to be vaccinated will be registered prior to the vaccination date. Nursing will screen residents over the phone and obtain verbal approval for those residents who want to be vaccinated. We may need copies of insurance cards, Nursing will provide further instruction. Again, Nursing will call every resident or the residents Responsible Party to determine interest in vaccinating.

Please note: if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 between now and January 14th, you will not be able to vaccinate at this time. Please use great caution and limit all interactions with others, including other residents, until no cases of COVID are found and we are past vaccination.

5) If you are experiencing cold like symptoms (fever, runny nose, sore throat, congestion) please call the Front Desk and report it. Do not interact with others, do not dismiss your illness as a cold. Please report symptoms to the Front Desk.

6) Think COVID. Think about your neighbors and Arbors staff when you go about your daily choices. Please consider reducing the possibility of infecting others by limiting contact with other residents, staff, or any other people as much as possible.

Our collective behavior and choices are vital over the next several weeks. If we all work together, look out for each other, and do the things listed above, we increase the likelihood of getting through this without tragedy. Let's be smart. Let's work together. Let's celebrate the next several weeks as the weeks we stopped COVID-19 at Arbors!

Thank You,

Chanté Drasdis,

Director