



Episcopal Retirement Services

September 25, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

As I have shared previously, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has issued guidance for continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) regarding family visits. The current state orders in both Kentucky and Ohio contradict the new CMS guidelines; however, both administrations are working to move to the CMS standards. This is excellent news for our residents and families. **What it means is that very soon, we will be able to offer indoor visits if we meet the CMS guidelines!** The following is the criteria for indoor visits:

1. The occurrence rate of COVID-19 in the county where our community resides.
2. The occurrence rate of COVID-19 among residents and staff within our community. CMS guidance prevents indoor visits if there is a positive resident or staff case in the last 14 days.
3. The staff capacity to facilitate family visits based on current staffing.
4. The availability of personal protective equipment (PPE).
5. The local hospital capacity level. This is important if a CCRC would have a surge of cases, and residents might require hospitalization.

In Ohio, we can begin indoor visits anytime after October 12<sup>th</sup>. In Kentucky, we have to be past the 14 days of a positive case to begin indoor visits. We are working to establish the location of indoor visits and will be sharing a link to sign up soon. Additionally, the CMS guidelines for indoor visits further limit the length of visits and the number of visitors. Visits will be held in a designated indoor area and scheduled in advance, just like our outdoor visits. More information will be shared with these details soon.

CMS allowing indoor visits shouldn't, however, signal to anyone that we can be less cautious. Actually, the opposite is true. The health risk for older adults is the same and will not change until this virus goes away completely. Therefore, we all have to recommit to the things that have been proven in science:

- Wear masks over your nose and mouth
- Keep social distance of 6 feet or more
- Practice proper hand and cough hygiene
- Limit your personal activities to reduce exposure to COVID-19
- Stay at home when you are not feeling well

**We are also pleased to share that we will begin outdoor visits next week at Episcopal Church Home.** We have received permission to have outdoor visits while the weather is so lovely. We have completed the plexiglass shelter to allow for the visits. Bring your cell phone to the visit to ensure that you and your loved one can hear

one another through plexiglass. Use this link to sign up for visits at Episcopal Church Home:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/echvisits>

We have no new positive cases of COVID-19 to report to you today. I have corrected the chart below. In working with our team, we identified an error in the chart below. There have been only five cases of positive COVID-19 among the staff at ECH, not six. There was a typo. I apologize for the error.

The following is the cumulative reporting for our communities:

COVID-19 Reporting	Episcopal Church Home	Deupree House & Cottages	Marjorie Lee
Current residents with confirmed COVID-19	0	0	0
Cumulative residents with confirmed COVID-19	0	0	6
<b>Staff*</b>			
Current staff with confirmed COVID-19	0	0	0
Cumulative staff with confirmed COVID-19	5	2	22
<b>3 or more residents or staff with new-onset COVID-19 respiratory symptoms in a 72-hour period.</b>			
Current occurrences	0	0	0
Cumulative occurrences	0	1	6

Private duty and contracted staff are reported to our residents and families, however, are not included in the cumulative chart above based on reporting guidelines by the city and state.

As shared in previous letters, we continue to follow all CDC guidelines and mitigation practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions or questions.

Sincerely,



Laura Lamb  
President and CEO