



May 8, 2020

Dear Residents, Employees and Family Members,

Asbury Communities and Albright Care Services are honored to serve residents and clients in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Residents live in eight continuing care retirement communities and three affordable housing apartment buildings. Clients are served through home and community-based services, LIFE programs, pharmacy services and technology support. Together, as a system, we serve over 4,400 residents and clients, and more than 2,700 employees.

It is hard to believe how much COVID-19 has changed our lives in the past two months and will continue to do so. The federal government, as well as our three states, have started announcing reopening plans. While each of the plans has a different name, they all share common themes:

- The paths to reopening must be gradual, steady and responsible for prioritizing the health and safety of all citizens.
- Reopening plans are roadmaps, not calendars, because the virus will dictate the speed based on the flattening of the curve.
- Everyone must act responsibly by following guidelines for hand and cough hygiene, social distancing, and wearing masks and other protective equipment as recommended.

The final common theme from the federal and state plans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is the critical need to protect those who are 65 years and older, and those who live in senior living communities, assisted living, nursing homes and other congregate care settings. Without exception, communities like Asbury and Albright are addressed in the final phases. For residents living in independent living, the plans include the continuation of sheltering in place and limiting public exposure. For residents in nursing and assisted living, the plans include remaining closed to visitors and the continuation of sheltering in place.

Our system has embraced CDC and CMS guidance, best practices and infection control protocols. We continue screening practices for residents, employees and essential visitors. We implement ever-changing regulations and governmental agency expectations. And we share transparent communication with residents, employees and family members. Our top priority is the health, safety and well-being of the residents we serve and the employees who fulfill their purpose by performing sacred work.

As Asbury and Albright plan for the reopening of our communities and services, we must be guided by the official plans. At this point, current measures and precautions within our communities remain in place. Like our states, our COVID-19 Task Force is already planning for the phased reopening of services where possible. Because each state is on a different timeframe, our communities will likely be too. Keep in mind that reopening is not like turning on a light switch. Think of it as slowly turning up a dimmer switch. The process will take weeks, and months in some areas, as we adjust to a new normal. Be prepared for physical distancing markers, limited capacity in common areas, by appointment or limited use of certain areas, possible screenings before some personal services, and strict oversight of renovations and move-ins. Beginning the week of May 18th, more information specific to your community will be included in the communications you regularly receive from your Executive Director.

In the meantime, we encourage independent living residents to:

- Continue to enjoy the grounds of your campus – walk, garden, cycle and enjoy the fresh air and beauty of nature.
- Socialize with other residents through conversation, small group happy hours, laughter and catching up. Remember to practice physical distancing of six feet.
- Take advantage of dining take outs, grocery availability, other services and special theme highlights created by community teams.
- Make trips off the campus for groceries, medications, and other necessary supplies or services. Take advantage of special store hours for older adults. Some stores may limit the number of people allowed inside or may only do curbside pickup and delivery. You might also find some businesses beginning temperature screenings in the coming weeks.
- Talk with your health provider about scheduling elective procedures that might have been delayed. Take advantage of telehealth services your doctor's office might offer to you.

- Keep in mind the guidance of public health officials to limit your exposure if you choose to engage in activities opening in the external community, such as golf, tennis, boating, fishing or visiting parks that are reopening.
- Continue to practice good hand and cough hygiene, and physical distancing of six feet. Remember, “Farther is safer.”
- Wear your mask. Remember, “My mask protects you, your mask protects me.” While you might not show symptoms, you could still be a carrier of COVID-19.

As the virus remains active in our states, and around our communities, we cannot become complacent. We appreciate your understanding, cooperation and the shared sacrifices being made. We are all in this together, and we are stronger together. Thank you for putting your trust and faith in Asbury Communities and Albright Care Services. The employees remain deeply committed to the sacred work they do and value the relationships they have with residents and family members. Together we remain committed to the fulfillment of Asbury’s mission to “do all the good we can” and Albright’s mission to “let your life shine.”

Sincerely,



Doug Leidig, President & CEO
Asbury Communities



Shaun Smith, President & CEO
Albright Care Services