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[Questions](#)

[AsburyMethodistVillage.org](http://AsburyMethodistVillage.org)

*This message is going to residents and family members who have opted to receive email communications.*

## A message from Michele Potter, Executive Director

June 5, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members,

Our Asbury Methodist Village community is comprised of 1,250 residents and 780 associates who represent the best our area has to offer! This challenge of COVID-19 has brought about new ways for us to interact with each other, using creative approaches to serving and, of course, magnifying the commitment of our top priority -- the safety and well-being of those who live and work here.

Today I want to just take a minute to touch on that commitment to safety and how we all play an important role in it, especially now as phased-in reopenings start to happen around us. Asbury President & CEO Doug Leidig previously shared that *"reopening is not like turning on a light switch. Think of it as slowly turning up a dimmer switch."*

As we enter another month and inch closer to summer, we must continue to put safety first all across our beautiful community. I know that the restrictions put in place have been difficult, and I thank you for the sacrifices you have made for the good of us all. It's refreshing to see comments like the one below about our safety efforts:

*"Many, many thanks to ALL the associates on our campus. You have all been here for us. The meals are fabulous, the cleaning of public areas is exceptional, and your care and compassion are evident in everything you do. We thrive because of YOU. We are very appreciative of the excellent care."*

I am aware that our state has moved into a new phase for reopening. But I want to

remind you that senior living communities such as ours lag for good reason behind these phased-in reopenings. It's a slow turn of the "dimmer" switch, if you will, and for good reason: we are guided by the many different plans and requirements placed upon us by numerous federal, state and local agencies. Current measures and precautions within our community must remain in place, including only essential visitors on the campus. The Asbury Communities COVID-19 Command Center is working tirelessly on the appropriate plans and they continue to work closely with me as we consider phased-in plans for reopening different services and functions on our campus.

I have received a lot of questions about what residents and families can safely do as we move along in our journey. Here are a few examples:

- **Mask wearing:** For residents, masks must be worn outside of your personal residence, and you should wear a mask when an associate is in your home providing service. You should also wear your mask outdoors when someone is within 6 feet of you. We have a large quantity of new cloth masks for resident use. Please see a concierge if you would like one. Remember, *"My mask protects you; your mask protects me."*
- **Residents are welcome to visit with others; we encourage you to visit outdoors in an area with fresh air**, for example public parks and backyard areas, and to limit any outdoor gathering to 10 people or less.
- **Want to gather for a cookout or picnic?** Please do, while continuing good health and hand hygiene, and not going buffet-style for the meal, but rather enjoy without sharing plates or utensils.
- **If you would like to visit family or to engage in another activity off-campus (such as church)**, we encourage you to follow the guidance for keeping physical distancing, mask wearing, gathering outside, and to remain vigilant on hand and health hygiene.
- **Feel free to get together with fellow residents**, and if you gather inside a residence, please remember the physical distancing standard of maintain 6 feet of distance or more from one another.
- **Please know that our health screenings remain in place** when you leave or enter the community.

- **And, while we recognize the itch to get out and about, the safest choice, according to leading health experts, continues to be to stay at home.** We are doing all that we can to provide options for you to enjoy in your home.

## COVID-19 Testing Update

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in COVID-19 testing here at our community. Most recently, 755 out of 940 Residential Living residents were tested, as well as all residents in Kindley Assisted Living. Previously, residents in the Wilson Health Care Center were tested -- twice. And, I'm happy to share that AMV is the first community in the Asbury system to have completed testing for residents in all levels of care and for associates. The coordination among associates and residents is really quite a feat, especially for a campus our size. I'm especially appreciative of those Residential Living residents who responded to our call for testing and who turned out for testing earlier this week. I have shared this quote with you before and I think it bears repeating: *"Each and every one of us has an obligation to exercise personal responsibility for ourselves, for our families, for our coworkers and for our neighbors."*

Results from the testing done this week for Residential Living residents may take up to 7 days to return. Any residents with a positive test result will receive a phone call from Resident Services Manager Stephanie Sabine. Residents with a negative result will have a letter placed in their mailbox.

We have scheduled an additional testing day next Wednesday, June 10, that is primarily for private duty caregivers that service our community. During this time, we will be able to accommodate Residential Living residents who were not able to be tested last week. This is not a re-test. Testing will be done in front of the Administration Building on June 10; hours are 6:30-9:30 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. Reservations are required. If you would like to schedule a test, please call Debbi Short at 301-216-4032 by Monday, June 8.

***I also want to remind you that testing represents only a "snapshot" in time regarding the virus. The risk of exposure is still very real and precautions must be maintained.***

## Addressing the nation's unrest

### **Sharing a message from Asbury President & CEO Doug Leidig to associates:**

In a message to Asbury associates on Wednesday, CEO Doug Leidig shares his thoughts on the "tensions around racial injustice that continue to exist in our country and have shaken many of us to our core. During this troubling time, I think back to what Maya Angelou once said, 'Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but it has not solved one yet.'" [Read Doug's full message here.](#)

### **Demonstration planned for Sunday near AMV**

We have been notified that a demonstration will stage in the parking lot of the Lake Forest Mall this Sunday, June 7, at 1 p.m. near the food court. The demonstration will begin at 2 p.m., leaving the mall area with a walking route on Odenhal Ave. toward Summit Ave. and then onward to Olde Towne Gaithersburg. The walk will return to the mall later, using Diamond Ave. to Russell Ave. The time for the return to the mall is uncertain. Please be aware that the demonstration is expected to include 200-300 people. Here are a few more details:

- Residents can participate on the AMV campus along the Odendhal Ave. fence line with signs and support if they choose.
- AMV Protective Services associates will be on hand during the event to address any questions.
- Per CDC guidelines, residents who choose to participate in the protest off-campus will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days.

## **An update on the community grounds**

Many residents have commented that the grass on the pond side of the community is longer than the rest of campus. We appreciate your observations and sharing them with us. Based on feedback we have received from several committees, we are trying to enhance our natural habitat by mowing this area less often. If you have feedback, please direct it to your Buildings and Grounds or Wildlife Committee representative. This is a trial at this point and we welcome your thoughts.

Additional updates:

- The Stream Restoration Project bidding process is complete. We expect to award the project soon and begin work mid-summer.
- The Pond Fountain Restoration project will begin within the next 30 days.
- We will be completing replacement of 12 roofs at the Villas next week.

## Messages of appreciation

More than 130 messages of thanks from family members and residents have come in for associates across the Asbury system in recent weeks. We are so appreciative of those messages, like this one recently received:

***"On my walks past the Wilson Health Care Center I always look up at the windows to reflect both on the residents that live in those rooms and the so special caregivers who look out for them. Blessings to each and every one."***

If you'd like to share a note of thanks, [please click here to launch a form](#) where you can type in your note of appreciation. We will take your submissions and find creative ways to share with associates. Thank you!

We also want to share the following [video](#). In partnership with the Asbury Foundation, Asbury's Strategic Ownership Team recorded messages of thanks to associates, its donor family, business partners, and others. Enjoy!



**Doug Leidig**  
President & CEO  
Asbury Communities



**J.D. Shuman**  
President & CEO  
Asbury Foundation



**Sue DaCamara**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Asbury Communities



**Manny Ocasio**  
Chief Human Resources  
& Compliance Officer  
Asbury Communities



**Andrew Jeanneret**  
Chief Finance Officer  
Asbury Communities



**Andy Joseph**  
General Counsel  
Asbury Communities

***Doing all the good we can by providing exceptional lifestyle opportunities to those we serve.***