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## A Message from the Executive Director

Nov. 13, 2020

Dear Residents & Family Members,

On behalf of the leadership team here at Asbury Solomons, I am grateful for your extraordinary efforts to keep our wonderful community as safe as possible during this pandemic. Now, as much as ever, we must not waver in our commitment to following the precautions and safety measures in place that help us minimize the spread of COVID-19.

As you may be aware, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced new actions on Wednesday to help combat the coronavirus. The positivity rate has risen steadily in recent days and weeks, and the key metrics the state tracks have worsened considerably. There's a quote we've shared before, and it's especially appropriate to share again: "*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.*"

**In light of the challenges still in front of us in dealing with the pandemic, and in line with Gov. Hogan's orders, I once again urge you to take the obligation of responsibility for one another seriously.**

Among the new actions laid out by the state is an important one regarding travel.

With the holidays approaching, this is a critical one for us to follow. As Gov. Hogan says, with confirmed increases in positive COVID-19 cases connected to travel outside of the state, the Maryland Department of Health has expanded its public health advisory for out-of-state travel. **Marylanders “are strongly advised” against traveling to any state with positivity rates that meet a certain threshold.** Currently, that threshold – a positivity rate above 10 percent or average case rates above 20 per 100,000 over the past week – applies to 38 states. Yes, that’s not a typo -- 38. [Please click here to read the state advisory.](#) To take a look at the state tracking by the CDC, for state positivity rates, [click here](#), and for state case rates, please [click here](#).

For us here at Solomons, we are prepared to follow this new directive. **Our self-monitoring checklist for Resident Living residents remains in effect and is as important now as ever.** [Click here](#) to view or refer to the hard copy version you have been provided.

If a Residential Living resident travels to one of these states identified by the CDC, the resident should inform Heather Jacobs at X3574, and follow the guidelines to get tested upon return and, no matter the result of the test, additionally to self-quarantine for 14 days. If the test comes back positive, the resident should also inform Heather so we can determine next steps and appropriate care.

Also, if a resident receives a visitor from one of these 38 states, the resident will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days. (Why 14 days? 14 days is the recognized minimum incubation period by the CDC for the coronavirus, and thus we follow this time period.)

Visitors must continue to go through our screening process, [completing this online form](#) and performing a temperature check upon arrival. Out-of-state visitors should also get tested for COVID-19 promptly upon arrival to Maryland or 72 hours prior to travel to Maryland, per Gov. Hogan. Evidence of test results is required for all out-of-state visitors. As you will note on the screening form, if a

visitor fails the screening, then they should leave the community immediately and inform the resident they were planning to see.

I'll also use this opportunity to ask you to please continue to be honest in your responses to the screening tools and to remind you that all Solomons associates go through twice-daily screenings when working, screening at the beginning and end of shift, and they are additionally expected to follow all state and local departments of health guidance.

I urge you to follow the guidance from Gov. Hogan, other public health experts and our own Asbury Communities Clinical Team. Should your holiday travel plans be impacted as a result of this information, please know that we continue to offer iPads and assistance for virtual visits for members of the residential community. Please contact Katie Demers at 410-394-3029. To schedule a virtual visit with a resident of the Assisted Living or Health Care neighborhoods, please contact Dennis Poremski at 410-394-3043

We are all looking forward to decking the halls in the coming weeks and to many celebrations and festive events that you'll learn more about soon! Our feelings of togetherness and community are so strong at Asbury Solomons. We have so much to celebrate!

If you have any questions about travel plans or what the state's new actions mean to you, please reach out to Heather Jacobs. Thank you for your partnership in making our community so special.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smith Friedman, LNHA  
Executive Director



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