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AsburyMethodistVillage.org

This message is going to residents of Wilson Health Care Center and their family members on our distribution list.

A Message from the Executive Director

Nov. 18, 2020

Dear Wilson Health Care Center Residents & Family Members,

On behalf of the leadership team here at Asbury Methodist Village, I am grateful for your extraordinary efforts to keep our wonderful community as safe as possible during this pandemic. The next few months may be challenging, but just imagine how wonderful it will feel when we emerge from this season having kept ourselves, our community, and our neighbors safe by our actions. The fun and festivities we will have when we're on the other side! 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 late last week 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.](#) For a look at the state tracking by the CDC, for state positivity rates, [click here](#), and for state case rates, please [click here](#). It's also probably not a bad idea to keep on top of the local Montgomery County COVID-19-related metrics. You can [click here to view more](#).

For us here at Asbury Methodist Village, we are prepared to follow this new directive. *Actually, for residents of the Wilson Health Care Center (WHCC) we'll take it one step further: We strongly discourage leaving the premises for any non-essential reason.*

What this means for residents:

If a resident were to travel out of the building for any non-essential reason, the WHCC resident must inform Muriel Langley (301-216-4116 or MLangley@Asbury.org), and follow the guidelines to get tested upon return. No matter the result of the test, the resident will need to additionally self-quarantine for 14 days.

What this means for visitors:

We continue to offer window & virtual visits (please contact Muriel to schedule), and in-person visits are postponed at this time. Approved visitors for select cases - such as for compassionate care - must go through our screening process, completing [the online screening form](#) and performing a temperature check upon arrival. If a visitor fails the screening, then they should leave the community immediately. Out-of-state visitors must get tested for COVID-19 promptly upon arrival to Maryland or 72 hours prior to travel to Maryland, per Governor Hogan. Evidence of test results is required for all visitors, and should be provided to the screener at the time of arrival. Because of the vulnerability of some of the residents we serve, visitation is limited to compassionate care.

I'd also like to remind you that we continue to do regular COVID-19 testing for WHCC and Kindley Assisted Living residents, in line with the Montgomery County requirement, which is based on current positivity rates.

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 Asbury Methodist Village 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, remember, we continue to offer virtual visits – just contact Muriel for any assistance.

The rising COVID-19 numbers are concerning. The surge is real, and the next few months could be tough. Please follow the 3 W's:

1. Wear Masks
2. Wash Hands

3. Watch Distance

Be on the lookout for your fellow residents – be neighborly and check in with folks from time to time. We like a good chat, either a physically-distanced conversation in the hallway or on the phone. The pandemic can't take away our feeling of togetherness, and we will do all we can to celebrate just that through the holiday season. We are decorating for the holidays here just as we ever have, and we're moving ahead with small physically-distanced events.

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

Sincerely,



Michele R. Potter
Executive Director

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