



April 22, 2020

Dear Residents and Team Members,

We are happy to announce that at this time we do not have any known cases of COVID-19 in any of our independent homes, nor in the Loomis Village assisted living neighborhood. As you may recall, we have taken proactive measures to perform testing of all residents in the nursing center and assisted living, as well as team members at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing. As a result of this increase testing, we now know of four additional confirmed positive test results in the nursing center and two more confirmed positive tests in the assisted living neighborhood at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing. As a strong precaution, all residents in assisted living at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing are in self-isolation for 14 days, under the direction of Dr. Mintz, our Medical Director.

Testing:

Testing is only available for groups of residents and team members in nursing centers, rest homes, and assisted living residences at this time. If you are an independent resident or a team member and become symptomatic, please contact your healthcare professional who will guide you about testing and important steps to take care of yourself and to protect those around you. We realize that many of you are anxious for us to provide an opportunity for wide-spread testing across our independent residents and team members. While we appreciate the desire for the testing, there are some factors to consider:

- 1) The tests are not available in this way in Massachusetts. During a Leading Age Massachusetts conference call yesterday, our counterparts across the industry had a great deal of discussion about this topic. Our association is in discussions with legislators about whether this can be made available to our industry
- 2) We are working with an Epidemiologist from the Department of Public Health. His opinion is that testing of this type is not valuable and should only be done when there is widespread transmission, such as the nursing center at LLRL, but instead should only be done when someone is experiencing symptoms. He reminds us that the test is a snapshot in time and a negative test result causes increased exposure when people feel "I am ok". His statement is that this is what he sees with the broad testing of groups who are asymptomatic.
- 3) So for now, it is not an option but if it does become available, we will need to make a decision about the value of knowing, for that moment in time, who is infected against the advice of the Epidemiologist.

In the meantime, we assure you that we are working diligently to maintain a safe environment through our infection control procedures, specific to the COVID-19 virus.

Thank you for everything you are doing to help us fight the spread of the virus throughout the Loomis Communities.

We follow Governor Baker daily, hoping for signs that we may be coming closer to returning to some kind of normalcy. His comments Tuesday came amid evidence that Massachusetts is potentially flattening the curve at a time when officials projected the state's surge in coronavirus to ease. Though the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the state broke 40,000 on Tuesday, the number of new daily infections has declined each day since last Thursday.

Baker stressed that any positive trends were not in spite but because of the aggressive social distancing measures that the state has implemented — and that, for the most part, residents have done a “pretty good” job following. He is talking about all of you! So while we are a ways away from opening up, we are on the right path but we need you to keep doing everything you have been doing. As we are seeing in the nursing center, this virus is very difficult to contain. Social distancing, hand washing, and facial covering are the most important actions we can each take every day, please keep doing your part!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

With appreciation,

Margaret Mantoni, CEO
Robert Claflin, Executive Director, Applewood
Craig Johnsen, Executive Director, LLRL
Maureen O'Toole, Executive Director, Loomis Village
John Armstrong, Applewood resident
Nancy Eddy, Applewood resident
Carolyn Hoyt, Loomis Village resident
Dan Marx, Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing resident
Ann McIntosh, Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing resident
Janet Veitch, Loomis Village resident