



July 2, 2020

Dear Residents and Team Members,

We are happy to report that we remain COVID free across all of the Loomis Communities at this time! Please don't mistake that for "Coronavirus is gone." While we are holding our own in Massachusetts, we are seeing the highest rates of infection across the country since the beginning of the pandemic.

For this reason we want to remind you that, absent a vaccine, not being exposed to the virus is our best line of defense in keeping ourselves safe from the virus.

Last week's letter focused on the importance of wearing face coverings as a tool to protect yourself and others from contracting Covid-19. This week we remind everyone of the importance of social distancing.

What is social distancing?

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home and limiting large gatherings.

Proper social distancing requires at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) of distance between you and other people who are not in your household.

Social distancing is important for all of us, but those of us who are at higher risk for serious complications caused by Covid-19 should be especially cautious about social distancing.

Assume you or someone around you may be infected and act accordingly. There is strong evidence that asymptomatic spread accounts for 30-50 percent of new infections. Remember, your individual risk of infection is cumulative. This means that your chances are dependent on the intensity of exposure multiplied by the amount of time you are exposed. Staying outdoors in well-ventilated spaces and maintaining social distance reduces the intensity of exposure to the virus.

Under these very difficult circumstances, The Loomis Communities is working hard to balance safety with overall wellness. We understand that one of the biggest reasons for choosing to move to Applewood, Loomis Village, or Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing is for the socialization and the sense of community. We do not want the idea of social distancing to mean an end to that. We encourage you to visit with each other, join with groups of 10 or less for an activity; we just ask that you are diligent in your efforts to be at least six feet apart.

We are not helpless in the face of this virus. We know much more now than we did in April about where COVID-19 is spreading and how. The shape of the second wave will be the direct product of our collective actions. We have the power to decide how we want this pandemic to end — either in triumph or in disaster.

We can also make a difference by reinforcing responsible behavior. Speak out if masks and social distancing are not being respected by those around you, but please do so kindly.

Thank you for all you have been doing to support our efforts during this challenging time.

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