

COVID-19 Update – May 18, 2020 – “Shelter in Place” Continues

To: Our Minnesota Residents and Their Family Members

As you may know, on Wednesday, May 13, Governor Tim Walz announced that he is lifting his “Stay-at-Home” order on “non-vulnerable” individuals and replacing it with a “Stay Safe” order on “non-vulnerable” individuals. The state is allowing some businesses to reopen effective Monday, May 18th. While this is certainly encouraging news and a positive step forward, it’s important to understand that this reflects an “opening” of our Minnesota economy, but **DOES NOT CHANGE** the guidance given by the Governor and the MN Department of Health that, **“All vulnerable individuals are asked to continue compliance with the Shelter in Place requirement.”**

Our **first priority** is to protect our residents from the transmission of the COVID virus, since senior care settings continue to experience outbreaks of COVID-19. **-Until we receive further clarification from CMS and MDH, visitor restrictions remain in place.** We continue to ask for your patience and remind all of our residents and their family members that **“Shelter in Place”** still applies to our Community, as follows:

- **All vulnerable individuals are asked to continue compliance with the Shelter in Place requirement;** Vulnerable individuals are defined as the following, which includes but is not limited to elderly individuals, individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic lung disease, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised, such as by chemotherapy, cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.
- **Visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should be prohibited except for “medically essential” personnel;**
- **Wearing masks is strongly encouraged.**

REMINDER - “Shelter-In-Place” Guidelines:

- Encouraging Tele-health
- No communal dining
- No gathering/socializing in common spaces
- Requiring residents wear a cloth mask when out of their apartment
- Highly discourage outings to the grocery store or running errands
- No resident-to-resident apartment visits
- Restricting visits to see family members

- Extended travel away from the community (i.e. trip to hospital or ER, prolonged dental appointments, or family visits) – resident is required to 14-day isolation to apartment

Please remember, every time you venture out in to public settings, you are placing yourself at risk by exposing yourself to the virus and, in turn, bringing that risk of exposure back to the other residents and staff in the building.

We will continue to do all that we can to facilitate virtual or “window visits” from a distance of six feet apart, as we recognize that maintaining a connection between you and your loved one is important.

We thank you for your understanding, patience and support as we work to ensure the continued safety, health and wellbeing of all of our residents and team members.

TO STAY INFORMED, REFER TO THE WATERS DEDICATED COVID-19 WEB SITE

Your cooperation in referencing our web site at <https://www.thewatersseniorliving.com/> for answers to commonly asked questions will help minimize the disruption among Team Members who are trying to care for our residents.

Additionally, you are always welcome to contact the Executive Director of your respective community.