



UPDATE: Monday, May 5, 2020

TO: Brewster Residents

FROM: Joe Ewert, President and CEO

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued grace and generosity in living with our current restrictions. The coronavirus has had a dramatic impact on the way this year has unfolded. The virus will continue to impact us all as we navigate through the questions and interventions we use to keep our community safe from the virus.

At this point we have had several staff and residents tested for coronavirus and I am pleased that all of the tests were negative. The risks for exposure will rise as the broader community and those around us must reopen and return to activity. We will continue our efforts to keep Brewster safe from this virus. We will be ready to care for a resident if they fall ill. We will contain the virus if someone does fall ill on campus.

There is much discussion about reopening normal activities on campus. I am reviewing all the information I have at my disposal to make decisions regarding interventions we have put in place at Brewster. Brewster will be spending more time with our current restrictions. The question on everyone's mind now is how long will we be living with restrictions? I do not have an answer for this. There are many variables that will dictate what we do and when we do it. What I can provide to you is an idea of what I am looking at to help make these decisions, and how we will move forward when the time is right.

We will remain with our current restrictions until both the state and the county have lifted the stay at home orders. Additionally, we will follow any guidance they provide specific to retirement communities like ours. Once these orders are lifted, we will watch the number of new cases in Shawnee and surrounding counties for a minimum of two weeks before making any decisions. I will be looking specifically for a period of stable low growth of the virus. If the average number of new cases grows after the orders are rescinded, Brewster will remain in its current state. If the average number of new cases stays low, we will make adjustments to our restrictions gradually.

The following is an outline of how I see the re-opening of campus amenities working. The details listed may change as we receive guidance from the various government entities working during this pandemic. I hope it provides you some help as you make future plans to

see your family, or plan activities delayed by the virus. We will open each of these spaces gradually and in phases, to allow us to monitor changes in new cases of coronavirus or potential new cases. Hypothetically each of these stages could take two or more weeks depending on what we see occurring with new cases in the area. It is also possible that some of the later steps will be made simultaneously if we see a strong reduction in new cases as the summer progresses.

Brewster Health Center and Assisted Living will strictly follow the guidance and regulations set for them by state and federal agencies. The risk this virus poses to residents in these locations demands caution.

Hair Salons will be re-opened as soon as we are allowed to do so by the state board of cosmetology. We will establish a maximum occupancy for each space to assure social distancing is maintained.

Outdoor Visiting Spaces will be designated to provide spaces to safely gather in small groups, or to visit with family members in the open air. Social distancing will be very important as we begin to bring more visitors into contact with campus residents. These spaces will initially require reservations be made in advance to assure the occupancy limit of any such space is maintained.

Wellness Centers, Woodshop, and Arts and Crafts Studios will be opened with strict limitations on capacity. Exercise classes will resume with reduced capacity to assure social distancing is easily achieved at all times. The same will be done with Arts and Crafts studios. Anticipate use of these spaces requiring an advanced sign up or reservation and use of a face covering.

Residences opening for on campus visitation by Brewster residents will follow the opening of the wellness centers, woodshop and arts and crafts studios. Residents from other areas of campus wishing to visit Redwood or The Evergreens will be allowed to do so after being screened using the appropriate CDC criteria. Anticipate being required to use a face covering while visiting.

Family visitation to Aspen, Birchwood, North and South Terrace, Grand Homes and ground level Oak, Maple, Cedar will resume. These residences can be accessed directly and do not require visitors to travel through common spaces. Anticipate visitors being required to be screened appropriately prior to entrance.

Group activities will resume on campus with strict capacity limits. Prior reservations, screenings, and face coverings will be required. Activities may be limited to on campus to begin with.

Family visitation to all Independent Living buildings will be opened with limits. Anticipate strict capacity limits for each building, prior screening, and prior notice to be required. We will aim to increase the capacity over time until prior notice is no longer required.

Dining Rooms, The Market, and the Brewster Bean will re-open with limited capacity. Anticipate seeing fewer chairs at tables, and chairs being spread apart from each other. We will likely need to establish a reservation system and multiple seating times to accommodate all diners in a way that achieves the proper social distancing. We will continue to provide free meal delivery through the initial re-opening of the dining rooms. Anticipate receiving a quick screen prior to accessing these spaces.

This outline is subject to change as we gain new information and experience. My hope is to re-open campus in a manner that balances the opening of amenities and safety for all on campus. We will continue to screen all employees, require masks for residents and staff when social distancing cannot be achieved, and actively survey staff and residents for signs or symptoms of exposure. I fully expect that the pace we take will be too slow for some, and too quick for others. My promise to you is that I will take each step only after carefully considering the best information I have at my disposal, and weighing it with a favor toward safety.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can help you with.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO
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