



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES

OF NORTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED

PROUDLY SERVING OLDER ADULTS SINCE 1951

April 7, 2020

Reed VanderSlik
President and CEO

To Residents & Families:

New information and prevention guidelines continue to emerge about the novel coronavirus. As we learn about these we make appropriate adjustments in our policies and procedures.

Early on, the use of masks was discouraged unless there was a positive diagnosis for COVID-19. Over the last several days, new information indicates that wearing masks will offer additional protection to the wearer of the mask as well as those surrounding them.

The challenge facing all health care providers has been securing a sufficient number of masks. The N95 mask is the most effective, but due to limited supplies, it is being utilized only in cases where there is a confirmed case and typically only in the health care settings. Paper masks are the least effective. Therefore, cloth masks are our best option from an infection control standpoint and have the advantage of being laundered and reused.

As the new recommendations emerged last week regarding masks, we started securing a sufficient quantity of masks. We were fortunate to find a local supplier and we placed an order, which will be completed and delivered on Wednesday, April 8.

Our clinical leadership is steadily working on procedures to appropriately launder the cloth masks for reuse and we will begin requiring all team members to wear masks by the end of this week when the team member is in a common space or a resident's home or apartment.

We understand that you have seen already or will start seeing all team members wearing a mask, which can be a little unsettling. However, we are taking this step because it provides another level of safety. Our residents and team members are precious and we want to continue to provide the safest environment possible.

We are not requiring residents to wear masks at this time. If you leave the campus, we suggest that you wear a mask and you will need to self-quarantine for 14 days after your return. Wearing a mask in common spaces and covering your mouth and nose in the presence of anyone can also provide an extra layer of protection.

As always, feel free to reach out to your administrator with any questions or concerns. Be safe and be healthy.

With Love and Concern

Reed VanderSlik