



**BETHLEN**

May 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Family of Bethlen Communities:

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, has seen an increase in the amount of COVID-19 cases this fall. As such, Bethlen Communities would like to provide you with updated information on how COVID-19 has impacted our community and the steps we are utilizing during the pandemic.

### **Our Experience**

We have felt the virus's direct effects here at Bethlen Communities. Our facilities have been undergoing mandated staff testing since the week of October 19th. Bethlen Communities has been administering COVID-19 testing twice a week on staff members.

Bethlen Home reported one resident positive and four staff positives for testing conducted the week of April 26th. The building is currently closed for visitation, but we encourage family members to schedule window visits and FaceTime visits by calling 724-238-6711.

Ligonier Gardens is pleased to announce that there were no resident or staff positives from testing conducted this week, and Ligonier Gardens will conduct in-person visitation. Visitation will be scheduled by calling 724-238-3517, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm, and ask for Activities. Families will enter and exit through the front door and will be required to screen, wear a mask and perform hand hygiene at each visit.

While we strive for transparency in everything we do, please know that we are bound by federal guidelines under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA, which protect the privacy of our residents, who may not want their condition known. Our medical director follows all established federal laws in notifying families of any change in the medical condition of their loved ones. Our residents are our first priority.

### **Continued Prevention**

Prior to each shift, staff are required to wash their hands, take their temperature, screen with a pulse oximeter and answer a series of questions to ensure they are not exhibiting any known COVID-19 symptoms. Any employees who develop symptoms during a shift are immediately sent home. At that point, they are directed to quarantine at home. This process is also followed for outside vendors and agency workers.

We also conduct a rigorous sanitation regimen that follows, and in some cases exceeds, all state and federal guidelines. We have increased the daily volume of cleaning done in common, medical and residential areas. All protective and medical equipment are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Although this can be a challenge at times when providing medical care, our facility continues to practice safe distancing guidelines by limiting the number of people in one area and maintaining 6 feet of separation.

We continue to encourage family members to communicate regularly through FaceTime or Skype calls, phone calls, and emails. For more information on scheduling virtual visitation, please contact a member of our activities departments at 724-238-6711 for residents in Bethlen Home, and to schedule in-person visitation at Ligonier Gardens, please call 724-238-3517.

On behalf of the entire Bethlen Communities, we want to thank each of you for your continued patience and prayers. It means a great deal to us.

Sincerely,

Bethlen Communities Administration