



489 Castle Shannon Blvd. ↕ Pittsburgh, PA 15234

To: Residents and Staff
From: Alvin W. Allison, Jr., President & CEO
Subject: Weekly COVID-19 Update
Date: December 9, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alvin", is written over the "From:" line of the header.

Baptist Homes Society continues our ongoing battle with the COVID-19 virus. Since our last weekly update on December 4, 2020, twelve personal care residents and twenty seven skilled nursing residents on the Baptist Homes campus tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, three skilled nursing and three personal care staff members have tested positive on the Baptist Homes campus. At Providence Point, one personal care aide, one laundry aide, and one contracted skilled nursing aide tested positive. We are following state and federal guidelines and requirements for follow up, testing, and retesting.

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, family visitation for skilled nursing remains suspended on both campuses at this time. Window visits for Providence Point personal care residents have resumed. An appointment must be scheduled.

The skilled nursing, personal care, and memory support residences continue to follow federal and state mandates. Staff and visitors continue to be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of entering our buildings. Staff and visitors must wear a mask at all times while on our campuses, inside or outside our buildings. All packages for healthcare residents are to be left outside our entrances for delivery by our staff.

We take the health, safety, and security of our residents very seriously. As you know, COVID-19 can have very serious health complications, possibly leading to hospitalization or even death. **With the danger of infection posed by the increased number of COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County, as well as the surrounding counties, in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), we strongly encourage you to NOT take your family member out of Baptist Homes or Providence Point for an outing or visit. Getting together in groups for the holidays increases the risk to your loved one.**

In order to help to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to keep ourselves, our families, and the residents we serve free from the COVID-19 virus, each of us must be diligent to continue to:

- Wear masks both while at work, as well as outside your home in the community.
- Wear masks appropriately, **ensuring mask covers both nose AND mouth,**
- Practice social distancing of 6 feet or more and avoid gatherings of more than 10 people,
- Continue to observe appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette,
- Continue to wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, and
- Use hand sanitizer frequently when hand washing is not practicable.

Thank you for your continued understanding, cooperation, and compliance with all of the measures that are in place due to COVID-19.

Please continue to keep Baptist Homes Society, our residents, and our staff in your prayers.