



Dear Family and Friends of Redstone Residents,

Here are your COVID-19 updates for Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Ordinarily, today would be tax day. We have reminded our residents that the IRS has pushed the annual tax-filing deadline from April 15 to July 15, and that change also applies to first quarter 2020 estimated tax payments. We know that there has been some anxiety for our residents about getting taxes filed while not being able to be with family and financial advisors.

We continue to be encouraged by the low number of cases of COVID-19 in the western Pennsylvania region. The efforts we have made have had an impact and will continue to have an impact. Thank you for your continued efforts.

Yesterday, we talked a little bit about masks. Each resident has been provided a mask, and should wear that mask when leaving their individual apartment. The CDC advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance. We are glad to see that most of you are wearing masks of some sort when you stop to drop off care packages for your residents. This is something that will probably become more of a way of life for many of us, at least for now.

Today, we would also like to talk a bit about wearing gloves. We have noticed that many of you are wearing gloves when you visit the campus to drop off packages. We want to just provide a word of caution about the use of gloves. Gloves can be “a little bit deceptive,” says Dr. Mary E. Schmidt, a board-certified infectious disease specialist. “People get this idea that they’re protected, but as soon as those gloves are contaminated, it’s just like having your bare hands.” In other words, wearing gloves gives you a false sense of security, and could make you less careful about other hand hygiene practices, like washing your hands or avoiding touching your face. Remember that anything you touch with your gloved hands — like your phone, wallet or purse — is technically contaminated and your gloves are then contaminated, too. Good advice is that we shouldn’t be touching anything with gloved hands that we wouldn’t touch with bare hands. At Redstone, our employees wear fresh gloves to provide patient care to one resident, and then carefully dispose of the gloves. Those who are not doing direct patient care do not wear gloves, but are instead encouraged to practice thorough handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer when a sink is not available.

The coronavirus, the flu, and even the common cold will be with us for a while, unfortunately. As we begin to think about how life will be different after this pandemic, we will be thinking more about our best practices for infection control, and sharing those practices with you. We’re starting to talk about “new ways of doing things,” here at Redstone and we look forward to moving on to this next chapter. For now, though, let’s continue to be vigilant about our no-visitor policies and maintaining our physical distancing from each other. We remain so very grateful for your diligence and cooperation.

Sincerely,

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