



Dear Family and Friends of Residents,

Here are your COVID-19 updates for Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Within the past 24 hours, there have been over 1,000 news cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. We continue to take our precautions and preparations very seriously. Thank you for your ongoing support. The efforts everyone is making are making a difference in our communities. We recognize how very challenging this is for you, and the thousands who are in the same position across the country.

You are familiar with the very hard decisions that we have made and the policies that are still in place:

- All Independent Living Apartment, Personal Care, and Nursing Home residents must remain on the Redstone campus at all times except in the case of essential medical treatment.
- No visitors are permitted within our buildings.
- Residents may not visit other levels of care.
- Families may drop off care packages between 2 pm and 7 pm, Monday through Friday. Weekend drops may be arranged for birthdays and other special occasions. Easter drops will be permitted.
- Employees and residents continue to be screened for signs and symptoms of the virus.

Your family member may have noticed that all of our employees are now wearing masks. Clinical employees are wearing disposable surgical masks, and other employees have been issued cloth masks. This change came because of a new direction from the state of Pennsylvania. Our employees are wearing masks to help protect our residents, not to protect themselves. We need more “sew-ers” to help make masks. If you sew, or know someone who sews, please contact Lisa Dormire at [ldormire@redstone.org](mailto:ldormire@redstone.org) and she will provide you with a pattern and instructions for making cloth masks.

We continue to prepare for the possibility of treating patients with COVID-19 at Redstone. We have established an isolation unit within the nursing home and are training a team of staff to work in that area. Employees who will be working in that area need to be “fit tested” for N95 masks. An outside company will be setting up a tent outside of the nursing home next week, where these

fit tests will be conducted. This is NOT a quarantine tent. If your loved ones live on the Greensburg campus, please help us to reassure them that this tent should not frighten them. This process is a step in preparing for what we might face in the future.

Some of our residents have had questions about haircuts. Unfortunately, every one of us is sharing in this pain. Haircare services have not been deemed an essential function in Pennsylvania. We will all be experiencing the pain of straggly hair, gray roots, and in some cases, out-of-control eyebrows. If your resident has actual hygiene concerns, please have them speak with their campus director and we may be able to have home care assist with their concerns.

Because we will still be in “Stay-at-Home” mode for Easter, we are planning some special surprises for our residents. Our chaplains are planning special worship services which will be delivered over the closed circuit television system. We are planning to provide each resident with an Easter basket. We are looking for donations of individually wrapped candies, personal items like toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, word search books, etc. to put in those baskets. We actually have nearly 500 residents across our Redstone communities so this is a HUGE undertaking. If you would like to donate items, please drop them at the front desk of your Redstone campus during normal drop-off hours. You don’t need to donate 500 of an item! Every donation will help.

While we want to be respectful of the Stay-at-Home order and the extreme importance of social distancing, we would also like to invite local families to come assist us with an art project. Weather permitting; we will be assigning portions of our sidewalks on our Redstone campuses for families or individuals to decorate with chalk on Friday or Saturday of Easter weekend. Residents will enjoy watching out their windows, and this will brighten our campuses. If we end up with a rainy weekend, we will have to postpone this project. If you would like to participate, please contact Jessica at [jwisniewski@redstone.org](mailto:jwisniewski@redstone.org) or call 724-832-8400 and ask to speak with Jessica in communications. She will be sure to assign you a space that your loved one can see from their window. Chalk is still available for purchase at most local open variety stores.

We have gotten so many kind notes and phone calls from many of you. Your support sustains us. We really are in this together. May we keep all of those who have been impacted by COVID-19 in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Vicki Loucks, RN, MSN, MBA  
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer  
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