



Dear Residents,

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

Ordinarily, today would be tax day. 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. This change was made to support those whose lives have been disrupted by COVID-19.

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. Masks need not be worn in your own apartment, unless a housekeeper or maintenance worker is there to work. 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. Cloth face coverings provide a helpful voluntary public health measure. 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.

Today, we would also like to talk a bit about wearing gloves. If you were to go to the grocery store today, you would see many people wearing 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. You shouldn’t be touching anything with your gloved hands that you wouldn’t touch with your bare hands. Unless they are actually delivering patient care, we advise our employees to skip the gloves and wash their hands frequently and thoroughly, and use hand sanitizer when it isn’t possible to wash at a sink.

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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