



February 5, 2021

RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear Residents, Families, and Co-Workers,

Wednesday was an exciting day here for the Penick Village family. Most residents and many staff received their second dose of the vaccine, and now even more staff have received their first dose of the vaccine as the numbers climb higher for those getting the vaccine.

We are also very pleased that there were no healthcare resident COVID-positive cases last week or this week. It is wonderful to see the outbreak slow down and hopefully stop, as our team has diligently worked non-stop to make this happen. It is also encouraging to see residents who were positive now recovered. While we continue to lift up those families who have lost a loved one, we give praise for the many who have recovered. And what a great, positive story for which to give thanks.

It's important to note that our resident positive cases have all been in healthcare, and most of the staff positive cases have been healthcare. Nationwide, there has been much publicity about the challenges of keeping COVID out of healthcare areas where residents need hands-on service. And there has also been much publicity about how quickly the virus can spread in these healthcare settings. All this is especially challenging when the local positivity rate has been so high.

Penick Village has consistently, since the beginning of COVID, followed guidelines and worked closely with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and local health departments/agencies in monitoring the status of COVID-19, including outbreaks.

Penick Village also continues to COVID-test staff who do any kind of work in our healthcare areas. Currently, this has meant twice a week. And we have never stopped screening our staff and qualified visitors for symptoms before proceeding through any building.

At no time has Penick Village relaxed its standards or created its own set of rules in the healthcare areas. Rather, we have consistently followed the guidelines and regulations we've been given as noted above.



As a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community or Life Plan Community), Penick Village has multiple levels on its campus. In addition to more than one level of healthcare, we also have Independent Living. In these separate areas, as requested by independent living residents, we have partially re-opened some of the common areas like our Village House where dining, library and a couple other activities take place. In so doing, we have been consistent with the Governor's orders (like the rules regarding restaurants, etc). This allows independent residents to have choice and to truly be independent as is intended by the very nature of where they live. As such, for those who so choose, it creates opportunity for some socialization in carefully controlled and sanitized spaces with proper spacing and masking after appropriate screening. Given COVID has been very well known to create loneliness and depression due to the isolation it brings, we believe this can be helpful while providing potentially safer on site venues. In fact, there have been no cases of COVID as a result of any of these independent living activities at Penick Village. The primary reason is that our independent residents and staff are being highly responsible adults (who are not required to come in close contact with one another as is the case in the healthcare areas), and those with special concerns or significant underlying issues are choosing not to engage; which is also their respected choice as independent living.

A recent rumor went around that we lost a dishwasher to COVID. That is completely and totally false. We have not lost any of our employees to COVID.

Please note the healthcare areas are still only open for window visits at this time, or Skype or FaceTime. We greatly appreciate your understanding, realizing this is difficult for families.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. There has been a tremendous amount of COVID in this country and this county since the holidays. We are encouraged by signs that it may be slowing for the moment, and also that we now have a second dose of the vaccine under our belt.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve and to make a positive, meaningful difference in the lives of those around us.

Blessings to all,



Ronald E. Jennette
Interim Chief Executive Officer



Tricia Wood, NHA
Healthcare Administrator