

PMMA developing reopening plans, remaining cautious

July 1, 2020

WICHITA- Kan.— PMMA (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America) has announced it is developing plans to reopen its 16 communities, but plans to move forward with caution to ensure resident and employee health and safety.

“As case numbers begin to climb, we know we must be cautious in reopening our communities to visitors,” said Bruce Shogren, PMMA president and CEO. “We are acutely aware of the need of residents and family members to be able to re-unite, but our first priority remains the health and safety of our residents and our employees.”

The Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has issued reopening guidance for skilled nursing and assisted living communities. The guidance gives the local health department a critical role in determining how quickly a community can reopen. Missouri’s Department of Health and Senior Services has issued guidance only on visitation, communal dining and group activities. Additional guidance is expected to come after the July 4 holiday.

The PMMA Senior Leadership Team, Regional Directors of Operations, Nursing and Marketing, and our Executive Directors have been refining PMMA’s reopening plans and are beginning the process of consulting with local health departments to determine when campuses can begin the phases of reopening to visitors.

Each community reopening timeline will depend on the local health department, the number of COVID-19 cases both at the campus and in the greater community surrounding the PMMA campus. Nursing centers will be among the last to reopen within the greater community to ensure the safety of residents. As our communities move through the phases of reopening, visitation will be among the last restrictions lifted as part of phase 3 of the reopening plans.

Since March 13, 2020, per CMS guidance, in-person visitation has been strictly limited at all PMMA communities. **Limited access** means all visits to the community must be rescheduled **except in case of compassionate care and end-of-life situations.** These exceptions will be determined on a case-by-case basis with careful screening of the potential visitor(s).

Visitors who meet the end-of-life exception are screened for entry to the community. Screening includes answering a questionnaire about recent travel, health status and exposure risk, and temperatures will be taken and logged before being allowed to enter into the community.

Visitors are expected to follow good hand washing practices and coughing/sneezing etiquette. In addition, movement in the community will be limited to the resident’s room, and social distance recommendations are in place strictly limiting physical contact.

Personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes gloves, masks and gowns, are available **as necessary.**

Independent living residents who live under the same roof as assisted living and health care residents are asked to shelter in place out of respect for the other residents who are at a higher risk due to underlying health issues. All independent living residents are encouraged to practice social distancing, use good hand hygiene and wear a mask in public areas and when leaving the campus for any reason.

Through it all, PMMA's mission to provide quality senior services guided by Christian values does not stop.