

MEDIA STATEMENT

June 2, 2020

PMMA announces continued adherence to CMS guidelines for COVID-19 prevention

WICHITA- Kan.— PMMA (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America) has announced it will continue to limit visitation to its 16 communities in accordance with guidance March 13 from Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure resident and staff safety while the organization waits for direction for reopening the communities from Kansas and Missouri.

“In this unprecedented time, it is difficult to understand how the federal, state, and local governments are addressing the reopening for our senior living communities,” said Bruce Shogren, president and CEO for PMMA. “Believe me, it has been a very frustrating and confusing game of ‘wait and see’ for all senior living providers in determining which governing authority is responsible for reopening guidance and plans.”

The PMMA Senior Leadership Team, Regional Directors of Operations, Nursing and Marketing, and our Executive Directors have been refining PMMA’s own reopening plans in hopes that we have anticipated what the states’ guidance will require. Our plan will be by level of living (independent, assisted and nursing) and will be based upon the impact of the COVID-19 virus upon the greater communities in which we are located. It will also comply with the reopening plans issued by the States of Kansas and Missouri.

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 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.

Even with these precautions in place, PMMA has not been immune to the COVID-19 virus. **Of our more than 2,100 employees, only 10 have had a confirmed positive test for COVID-19 since the pandemic began.**

The good news is our screening and protocols work. Employees are screened at the beginning of each shift at the point of entry to the community building and before employees have any direct contact with residents. These screening measures include taking staff temperatures and asking a set of questions about travel, health status, COVID-19 exposure risks and reviews a list of possible COVID-19 symptoms. Employees who have a fever or report feeling unwell are not allowed to work and are asked to get tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms of the disease. These measures have been in place since March 13 and continue to be updated as guidance changes.

Until recently, PMMA had not had a single resident test positive for COVID-19. Since May 15, PMMA has had two residents at two different locations test positive for the virus. One of those residents has now tested negative for the virus and been released from the special COVID-19 unit at that campus. The other resident continues to be cared for in isolation. At the direction of each local health department, we are testing all nursing and assisted living residents and all staff in the two locations this week (June 1, 2020). The health departments have given different directions for independent living, with all being tested at one location and voluntary testing for the other location.

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

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