

MEDIA STATEMENT

April 17, 2020

PMMA communities continue fight to keep COVID-19 at bay

WICHITA- Kan.—The safety of our residents and staff is our most important priority for PMMA (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America). All PMMA communities continue to follow the guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure resident and staff safety.

Effective March 13, 2020 per CMS guidance, in-person visitation is 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).

CMS guidelines have also discontinued group activities and communal meals for infection prevention. Residents are encouraged to practice social distancing, staying 6-feet away from one another. Residents may walk the halls or visit community amenities such as the library or fitness equipment so long as they are able to practice social distancing.

Families should communicate with their loved one via telephone, email or other electronic methods. Communities are scheduling video calls between residents and their families using FaceTime, Skype and Zoom. To schedule a time to visit with a family member, call your local community.

Letters mailed via the United States Postal Service also are being accepted at our PMMA communities. Effective March 26, residents also may now receive care packages shipped through official shipping carriers such as UPS, FedEx and DHL. Mail and packages will be quarantined for 3 days before being delivered to residents, so perishable items should not be shipped.

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.

Staff members are instructed not to come to work if they are experiencing symptoms of illness including having a temperature and especially respiratory illnesses.

Staff members also are undergoing screening before being allowed to work in the community. The screening includes the questionnaire about recent travel, health status and exposure risks, and their temperatures are taken and logged.

Every PMMA community has an infection prevention specialist, who completed specific training in infection prevention through nationally accredited infectious disease programs.

Each team member completes:

- An Infection Control course during onboarding orientation and then annually;
- An annual workplace emergency course (a pandemic is considered an emergency situation);
- A Blood Borne Pathogen course, which includes many of the same concepts as infection control (proper hand hygiene, use of gloves, etc.).

Each community's emergency response plan addresses pandemic situations. These plans are based on CDC and CMS guidelines. PMMA's dedicated Plant Operations and Housekeeping teams will continue to work diligently to ensure our community is clean, safe and disinfected regularly.

PMMA's mission to provide quality senior services guided by Christian values does not stop, even in the midst of pandemic. We will continue to provide care to seniors, including those who have outlived their financial resources through no fault of their own. You can shine a light during this time by supporting PMMA residents with a tax-deductible gift at www.Giving.PresbyterianManors.org.

PMMA's 16 communities and two hospices are accepting donations of homemade fabric masks and isolation gowns.

Fabric masks should be made of 100% cotton material and be different patterns on the front and back so the wearer can tell which one they had to their face. The masks may be held on with elastic or fabric ties as elastic may be in short supply. There are many free facemask patterns available online. Here is an example: <https://freesewing.org/blog/facemask-frenzy/>

Reusable gowns that suit our needs should be made of polyester or polyester-cotton fabrics, or cotton with plastic or waterproof lining that can be safely laundered and re-used. They should be long-sleeved and come below the knee of the person wearing them. They should close in back with ties or snaps. Fabrics that do not repel water can be waterproofed, but that spray

must be reapplied after each washing. Patterns for isolation gowns are available online. Choose one that fits your skill level. Here's an example: <https://peekaboopatternshop.com/isolation-gown/>.

To arrange for drop-off for masks or isolation gowns, contact your local PMMA community.

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For clinical response questions, contact Jeanne Gerstenkorn, vice president for health and wellness, PMMA, at jgerstenkorn@pmma.org or 316-685-1100 or 316-250-8197.

For operations response questions, contact Bill Taylor, chief operating officer, at btaylor@pmma.org or 316-685-1100 or 785-643-5134.

For all other inquiries contact:

Karen Harriman, chief marketing officer and senior vice president for communications and public relations, at kharriman@pmma.org or 316-685-1100 or 314-605-6175.

Lisa Diehl, corporate communications director, at ldiehl@pmma.org or 316-685-1100 or 316-619-0531.