



PMMA

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TO: PMMA Residents, Family Members and Visitors
FROM: Bruce H. Shogren, President/CEO
CC: PMMA Board of Trustees, PMMA Senior Leadership
RE: COVID-19 Update – “**STAY THE COURSE**” – *Steady and Slow for Reopening*
DATE: July 17, 2020

Kansas and Missouri have reopened their states but one thing remains evident that the COVID-19 virus is still a significant if not increasing threat to all of us, but especially for our senior population.

What you need to know:

- *The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) reported on Monday, July 13, the state has 20,058 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 288 COVID-19 deaths since the outbreak started. The state has added 1,447 new coronavirus cases.*
- *The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) reported on Monday, July 13, the state has 27,890 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 1,083 deaths attributed to COVID-19 since the outbreak started. The state had an increase of 14 cases since Sunday. Overall, Missouri health officials report the state has seen a 6% increase in cases over the past seven days.*

The above statistics point to a very significant spike in COVID-19 cases since the states have reopened. These spikes concern PMMA’s leadership because of our reopening plans. In my last letter to you at the end of June, I wanted the residents and their families to understand and realize the seriousness and ***the risks of reopening our PMMA communities*** during this pandemic. And, I want to reiterate this risk is what has been causing the delay and confusion and having to work with every level of government (federal, state and county) as to **how and when “nursing homes” reopen safely**. There is no magic potion for reopening. However, we are trying our very best to carefully navigate through the reopening using caution and diligence as guidance to protect our residents and staff members.

On June 15 and 16, we received final guidance from the state of Kansas for “Nursing Facilities Reopening Requirements and Recommendations,” through its Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). And, on July 10, we received final guidance from the state of Missouri for “Guidance Considerations for Long Term Care Facilities, through its Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Both states reopening documents align with CMS recommendations in that they call for a three-phase approach with each phase being at least 14 days without a positive COVID-19 case within its residents or employees. **CMS also provided “recommendations” on limiting the COVID-19 virus exposure in nursing homes to those state and local officials.**

Our reopening plans for each individual PMMA community includes recommendations from CMS and our state and local government entities because all of those government entities requirements will have to be met before moving into a Phase 1 at any of our PMMA communities.

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Based on the recommendations from the CDC and CMS, access to our communities will be relaxed or tightened, as COVID-19 conditions warrant in our greater surrounding communities. Items listed in each Phase will not be implemented all at once but throughout a Phase to ensure resident safety. Phases will last a minimum of 14 days and may last longer, for example Missouri’s guidance for the length of a Phase 1 is for it to last 28 days. These recommendations are in place to ensure the health and safety of our residents.

There are differences in the reopening guidance for Kansas and Missouri such as the following as to when each state will begin outside visits:

- **Missouri communities** may be allow outside visits beginning in Phase 1 due to that state’s guidance.
- **Kansas communities** may allow visitation in Phase 3 with strict screening requirements of visitors for fever and illness prior to admittance and adherence to wearing masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene.

The three Phase process is complex and cumbersome, but necessary for keeping our residents -your loved ones and our staff members-safe from the COVID-19 virus. Attached to this letter is an infographic for your appropriate state that explains the elements in each phase and what has to be met in order to move through the Phases in our reopening plans.

We remain acutely aware of the need for residents and family members to be able to re-unite. Moreover, we are excited that we are working diligently toward reopening our PMMA communities. However, I want to temper our enthusiasm with the need to understand each community’s reopening time line depends on their own local health department and the greater community’s COVID-19 positive cases. Which means we need to be diligent in “Staying the Course” while navigating through the phases. In addition, this means **remaining in the current state of highest restriction or “Limited” status**, especially for those of our communities that are located in cities and/or towns experiencing spikes in the number of Coronavirus cases. **The spikes in the Coronavirus are the reason the guidelines stipulate nursing centers be among the last to reopen.**

I would like to share some good news, as of today, the PMMA System has five communities in Kansas moving towards implementing certain parts of our Phase 2 reopening plan. These communities are looking to start communal dining and limited beauty shop services for residents.

After four months of navigating these uncertain waters, I continue to thank the Lord for blessing our residents, families and our dedicated staff members. As I said in my last letter, we will look back on these days with an appreciation for and understanding of our greatest strengths... our residents, our families and our staff members. Thank you and please keep PMMA and its communities in your prayers.

*Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Galatians 6:9

God’s Blessings,



Bruce H. Shogren
President/CEO