



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” Continues**  
DATE: April 15, 2020

---

Today we continue to “Stay the Course” despite the very challenges of restricting all visitors at any senior living community including those within the PMMA System. It has been a **key prevention measure** in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus across the United States. In addition, the CDC guidelines and the emergency “Stay-at-Home” orders for the general public including social distancing issued by almost all of the States, has helped our employees, who are on the front lines of this “war,” to protect those entrusted to our care.

Just last week, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) released revised models that included a strong statement as to what social distancing is doing to decrease the number of expected cases of COVID-19. It reported that if the U.S. continues the trend that has happened in a week’s time, deaths will decrease in the U.S. The revised projections simply indicate that the policy of social distancing is working to reduce both hospitalizations and deaths, not only in the U.S., but also - the world.

What does this mean for all of the senior living communities in the PMMA system? It means that taking the stance to implement these extreme measures by the PMMA leadership, but one required by CDC guideline, was and is the right thing to do to keep all our residents and employees COVID-19 free.

To this point, PMMA has a resident population of approximately 2,400 that are – as of today – COVID free. In addition, we have had only one non-direct care employee out of almost 2,500 total employees that tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and appropriate steps were put in place to assure no other employee or resident was affected. It is difficult with these outcomes, to argue with the PMMA System success due to the key prevention measures implemented in March.

While I understand “Staying the Course” is not what you want to hear, I do hope you understand why PMMA must maintain its policies concerning the COVID-19 virus, for the upcoming weeks. Even though, we do not know the exact end of the first wave of COVID-19, I assure you that all of our patience and cooperation will be the real reasons the PMMA System will not lose any lives to the COVID-19 virus.

I sincerely thank you for your cooperation, patience and grace during this pandemic and please let me end with a personnel experience I had this past Easter weekend.

“Most Easter mornings, I usually attend a Sunrise service at my local church. Unfortunately, like everyone this opportunity was not available due to the “Stay at Home” orders in Kansas. Therefore, I sat in my driveway, looking at the cloudy morning and listening to a Christian podcast of the readings from all of the gospels of the very first Easter morning. At the end of the podcast, the presenter read the following chorus from the Hymn, “*Because He Lives.*” The words were very reassuring to me in this very trying time. I hope they speak to you also.”

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow*

*Because He lives all fear is gone*

*Because I know He holds the future*

*And life is worth the living just because He lives*

God’s Blessings,



Bruce H. Shogren  
President/CEO