

**TO: Family/Friends/Visitors of Cathedral Square Assisted Living and Memory Care at Allen Brook Residents**

**RE: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update**

**Date: April 9th, 2020**

Hello family, friends and loved ones. We hope this update continues to find all of you and your families healthy and well supported during this challenging time in our history. In our 5<sup>th</sup> week since we started restricting visitors to our community, we are happy to report that our Assisted Living communities continue to be free of COVID-19 and its symptoms. While residents and staff continue to work every day to support each other and celebrate that we have not been subjected to this virus, we are very aware that it is present in our surrounding community.

At this point in time, we are communicating to all residents and staff that due to the prevalence of asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, we must now act as though every resident and staff person in the community has this virus. We are continuing to practice all recommendations made by the CDC and Vermont Department of Health for social distancing, handwashing and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The Vermont Department of Health in particular has been very supportive and has worked with staff directly to assess Infection Control Protocol and answer questions about measures that we are taking. They have been very positive about all of the precautions that have been taken and the proactive nature in which Cathedral Square has acted.

Last Friday, the Governor and Health Department Commissioner made recommendations that anyone leaving their home for essential needs wear a face covering of some kind. The Vermont Department of Health has indicated to us that it is safe for residents to go outside for fresh air as long as they are practicing appropriate social distancing and refraining from contacting any surfaces that may not have been sanitized. This has allowed CSC residents to get some much needed fresh air and exercise. As of last Friday, every Assisted Living resident has been given a face mask to wear outside of their apartment and encouraged to wear it anytime that they leave with specific guidance around hand hygiene. The face masks have been collected and washed by staff in accordance with CDC guidelines daily.

We are anticipating that this afternoon, Governor Scott will be extending the Stay Home, Stay Safe order through April. We would like to remind family and friends that this afternoon at 12 pm, Kathryn and Sarah will be hosting a call to provide updates and receive questions and suggestions via the Resident Connect Conference Line. **If you are interested in joining the call, please dial 802.657.7475 and use the Access Code 0188047.** This will be the first time that we have tried using this technology and know that background noise can be very distracting. Please be aware of how to mute your phone beforehand and be patient with us if there are a few kinks to work out as we start. If successful and well received, we will plan to continue to offer this every Friday at noon for the duration of the Stay Home, Stay Safe order.

Thank you again for all of your support and feedback during this time. It has been such a new experience for all of us and the stress of day to day changes has not been easy. We find comfort in the fact that our residents are safe, understanding and appreciative of the measures we are taking and we know that together, we will get through this. Please be well and take care of yourselves. We look forward to talking with you on the call!

