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Landis Communities Update December 30, 2020

As we approach the end of 2020 and reflect on how much life has changed this year, we want to thank you for walking with us on this journey.

In March, we made a commitment to be as transparent as possible in communicating what we know about COVID-19, the actions we are taking to mitigate the risk of transmission and how the virus is affecting those who are part of Landis Communities.

We also stated that the health and safety of residents, clients and team members throughout Landis Communities was – and is – our greatest priority! Team members have diligently worked to follow the frequently changing protocols of the CDC, CMS and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Even with these incredible efforts, we have experienced illness from COVID-19 and sadly, we have lost residents of Landis Homes and Welsh Mountain Home.

In the March 30, 2020, Landis Homes Update, just after the Pennsylvania Stay at Home Order was put in place, Michelle Ressler shared that collectively we were experiencing many emotions – sadness, fear, uncertainty and grief. She cited an article by Scott Berinato that said, “We feel the world has changed, and it has. We know this is temporary but it doesn’t feel that way... the loss of normalcy, the fear of economic change, the loss of connection. This is hitting us and we’re grieving. Collectively. We are not used to this kind of collective grief in the air.” In the article, Berinato applied the **stages of grief** in this way:

- Denial – this virus won’t affect us
- Anger – you’re making me stay home and taking away my activities
- Bargaining – okay, if we social distance for two weeks, everything will be better, right?
- Sadness – we don’t know when this will end
- Acceptance – This is happening; we have to figure out how to proceed

Nine months later, it is interesting that each of us continues to work through these stages in our own way. For most, it has not been a linear process, but one that changes with each new phase of the pandemic.

This has been a difficult year for all of us and for the most part, we will be happy to have 2020 behind us. But there have been, as we have been calling them, “silver linings” across Landis Communities. We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers, support and encouragement for team members from residents, clients and family members; the way residents of Steeple View Lofts, Mountain View Terrace, Welsh Mountain Home and Landis Homes have looked out for each other; team members who have stepped up to help in areas of the organization where they have never served before. This year has demonstrated that, even in our most difficult days, we strive to live our guiding values of joy, compassion, integrity, stewardship and community.

As we enter 2021, we would like nothing more than to leave COVID-19 behind us... but unfortunately, we are not there yet. With the start of the vaccine distribution, there is hope on the horizon. Right now, however, we must all stay the course and continue to use all the tools we have in our toolkit to stop the spread of the virus: wear a face covering, practice hand hygiene, maintain a minimum



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of six feet of physical distance and avoid indoor gatherings.

LNP reported this morning that the number of COVID-19 deaths in Lancaster County is higher in December than in any other month since the pandemic began. It is also likely that we will experience a rise in cases in the coming month that result from gatherings held for Christmas and the New Year. Dr. Stephen Diamantoni, county coroner, shared in the article, “Certainly, the virus is more widespread than it has ever been.” He continues, “There are many who gathered together with people outside their home for Thanksgiving and for the holidays and I think that all has contributed to that number, as well... and with the weather getting colder, gatherings are being moved indoors, adding to the transmission of the virus.”

The vaccination clinics in long-term care settings beginning in Lancaster County this week are another important tool in the toolkit to fight COVID-19. Landis Homes was grateful to be one of the first to offer a vaccine clinic in partnership with CVS on Monday, December 28.

The first doses of the Pfizer vaccine were administered to eligible Healthcare residents who consented to receive it as well as team members who work on the Landis Homes campus. The vaccine is not mandatory for staff at this time. Because of limited supply, any team member interested in getting the vaccine notified Human Resources. The following prioritization was then used: team members working in direct care units; team members who work in buildings where residents live; and other team members. The 201 people vaccinated on Monday will get the second dose on January 18. Many who received the vaccine said they did so to protect those they care for, work with and love.

We believe that the first dose will also be available on January 18 for skilled nursing residents who do not receive it Monday and additional team members, but information has been changing frequently. We have not been informed if residents in Personal Care will be included or the number of first doses that will be provide on that date. CVS has not notified us of the third clinic date.

Welsh Mountain Home has been in communication with their partner, Walgreens Pharmacy, regarding COVID vaccinations. No date has been set but information necessary for clinic day is being gathered and preparations are being made. We hope to have a date set for WMH in the very near future.

Across Landis Communities, the team is working to help access the vaccine for residents and team members as quickly as possible. As announced last week, Phoebe Pharmacy has been approved to administer the vaccine for residents on the Landis Homes campus in future phases of vaccine distribution. We are also exploring other options for additional vaccine clinics with Phoebe, CVS and Walgreens for residents of Steeple View Lofts and Mountain View Terrace.

We will notify residents in each location as soon as we have details. There is not a resident interest list at this time so please do not call until invited to do so.

As we close out this challenging year, please take some time to identify the emotions you are experiencing, to reflect on the “silver linings” you encountered in the midst of a pandemic and give thanks for the blessing of each day. We also continue to value your prayers. Wishing you peace and joy for the year ahead.

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