



April 3, 2020

Heroes in our midst – A message from our CEO

The number of senior living communities that have residents and/or staff testing positive for COVID-19 is growing larger and larger (per a Seattle Times article, at least 90 facilities in the state had confirmed coronavirus outbreaks as of Tuesday). At this point Bayview is in a rather small pool of unaffected communities, as far as we know as of this writing. We know coronavirus is all around Seattle. All we can do is continue to follow the protocols we've put in place and trust in our residents and staff to follow all guidelines so that we all stay safe.

On Monday March 23rd, we started a new protocol with staff – every staff person must wear a mask from the time they enter the building until the time they leave. While these are cotton filtered masks, not medical grade masks, they will protect others from transmission because the mask will catch any sneeze or cough droplets. They will also protect staff by helping them to keep their hands away from their faces, which is how the virus enters the body. We are now requiring any outside visitors (only essential visitors are allowed) to wear masks. They must provide their own masks, as we do not have excess supplies. The guidance on masks continues to change and we will notify residents as we change any protocols.

Every resident that follows guidelines is a hero, by keeping themselves safe and keeping others safe. We are so grateful and thank you beyond words. But I also wanted to call attention to our amazing staff, who put themselves on the front lines every day to make sure that our residents are receiving the services they need to stay safe and healthy. I frequently write and share with the Board how our residents inspire all of us every day. And that continues to be true. But it is also true of our staff. I am inspired each and every day by our staff that come to work, day in, day out, to make sure our residents and the entirety of Bayview survives and thrives as we continue to work our way through this unprecedented challenge.

As we come upon Passover, Easter, and holidays of your tradition during this season, I wish you all the blessings in the world so that you and your loved ones stay safe and well as we get through this together (socially distanced).

With love and gratitude,
Nancy Weinbeck, CEO



COVID-19 Update: A message from Joel Smith

As I sit here working from home writing this message, I am astonished at the sweeping and rapid changes in American culture. It has been five short weeks since the first deaths occurred at the Life Care of Kirkland facility, and we find ourselves in the midst of a “virtual” revolution in the way we conduct our daily lives. From work, to social life, to daily routines of eating, greeting, and cleaning; everything has changed in monumental ways. Almost all of these changes will have lasting repercussions as how we “human beings” conduct our lives from here on out. With this being stated, never have I been prouder to be a part of the Bayview family. As of this writing I am so pleased and humbled to inform that Bayview is still COVID-19 free. This could not be possible without the sustained and consistent vigilance for adherence to the Governor’s “Stay-at-Home” proclamation, and our commitment to excellent infection control practices and the enforcement of the safety protocols and policies by our residents and staff alike. All of us should be very proud of the efforts we have accomplished and the sacrifices we have made to keep us all safe and healthy.

In understanding our situation, it may become easier to believe or feel the threat of COVID-19 is not real, and the precautions we are taking are too extreme. The thought of “COVID-19 won’t happen to me” may begin to surface in our mind. We must discourage this attitude. I can assure you, every day, members of the executive team are saddened by the growing list of communities that are affected by this virus. Every day, we all see the reports of the numbers of people infected locally, regionally and globally on the television; and the death toll keeps rising. NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR COMPLACENCY! We must rise to this occasion and continue our perseverance of remaining free of this virus. It can be done!

The past week has seen lots of movement taken by Congress to pass many needed relief measures for the American people, and the healthcare industry as a whole. Executive team members attend daily conference calls with State and National agencies to stay apprised of the latest information and regulations surrounding COVID-19. Our team is tirelessly working to stay informed and make the necessary changes and adjustments to our operations and policy to keep up with the swiftly evolving information coming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Health (DOH) and from the Centers for Medicare Services (CMS). We are continually planning for the possibilities of the future. In our efforts to stay informed, we are doing our best to keep you informed of any changes or information that comes our way. Please continue to call or email, and we will answer any questions you may have as quickly as we can. Common questions that are frequently asked are:

 (206) 284-7330  (206) 284-9640
11 West Aloha Street, Seattle, WA 98119
www.BayviewSeattle.org



1. When will COVID-19 testing be available to the public? The CDC and the DOH continues to maintain that only people who are symptomatic of COVID-19 should be tested at the request of a physician. There is a growing movement within government agencies to push for testing of all residents and healthcare workers in facilities with known COVID-19 positive cases, but this has not been made official, and as of this writing, does not apply to Bayview.
2. Will Bayview require all residents to wear facemasks? The CDC is conducting studies to determine whether a change in policy will occur recommending the general public wear face masks at all times when out of the home on essential business. If and when this change occurs, Bayview will determine the next course of action to assist our population in meeting this recommendation.

As other common questions arise, I will address those concerns in future Weekly Newsletters. Thank you for your continued support and observance to the safety measures in place. Even though the “American way of life” may have permanently changed, the strict measures in place at Bayview today are temporary until a new “normal” is found. Stay safe and be healthy!

Sincerely,

Joel Smith, Health Services Administrator (ext. 3357)
Office: 206.281.5747 | jsmith@bayviewseattle.org