



Friday, April 24, 2020

COVID-19 Updates: A Message from Joel Smith

As we approach the 60th day since the first reports (02/27/20) of Corona Virus were initially reported in Kirkland, so much has transpired in such a relatively short period of time. If you are like me, you are probably exhausted of hearing about “social distancing” and “COVID-19”. Last week, the Governor released initial plans and phases to reopen the state to stave off the growing public unrest and apparent unwillingness to follow a sustained stay-at-home protection order. Media reports seemingly fuel this unrest as mounting death tolls and ever-increasing exposure rates are no longer “breaking” news. Closer to home, Bayview tightened policies this week to ensure the safety and well-being of our COVID-19 free facility. As I’ve stated before, each week that passes without a case of COVID-19 at Bayview is a true blessing. The latest reports from the Department of Health (DOH) stated there were 201 facilities with known exposure of COVID-19 in Washington State. There are only 213 total nursing homes in Washington State. Bayview is 1 of only 12 other facilities in the entire state that have not been touched with COVID-19. This incredible feat can only be accomplished with the continued vigilance and sustained effort of each and every one of us. Thank you for your continued support and hard work to be well and stay healthy.

Trending question of the week: Now that Governor Inslee is making plans to reopen the state, when will we be able to get back to “normal”? The Governor’s plan consisted of three phases and operates on the premise to reopen the state in the reverse order of the steps that were taken when the state initially progressed through the pandemic. The Executive team has reviewed the Governor’s plan and understands Bayview is not included as part of the Governor’s reopening until the last phase (phase 3) of the plan. Essentially, Senior living communities, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing Facilities house and care for the most vulnerable and at-risk population to be adversely affected by COVID-19.

With this in mind, the Executive team is in the process of reviewing our threat level grid, and developing a plan, in conjunction with the Governor’s plan, to reverse our steps over time. Bear in mind, the considered time frame is “months”, not weeks or days. We must remember, this is a marathon, not a sprint. As much as we want our lives to return to the way things were, COVID-19 is opportunistic. Any loosening of restrictions could allow COVID-19 to strike at Bayview and destroy all of our efforts to keep our community free of this horrible virus. Our reverse process must be systematic and measured, allowing for time to observe the potential effects of policy changes not only at Bayview, but throughout Washington State and the country. We must realize and be prepared to understand our day-to-day life will never be as it was before. A “new normal” will be established, and we will collectively, as a group, and as a society, will be stronger than ever before.

Sincerely,

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