

From Dorothea Wilson and the Lighthouse Management Team

To all Lighthouse Staff:

I know that you may feel anxious, and even afraid as this current situation unfolds related to the COVID-19 virus and its inevitable spread throughout Tuscola County and the Traverse City area. I know that these have been difficult times for many reasons and I know that if you are currently off of work your worries and fears are likely different than if you are currently working daily alongside our precious clients. I want you to know that throughout this entire process our management team, our nursing staff, Brandon Coleman, and others have been planning, preparing, working, and acting to ensure that we are taking the utmost precaution in preparing. In all that we do, safety for all residents and staff is our priority. We have also been working hard to determine how we can most responsibly assist all of the staff that we had to layoff.

The management team has been meeting regularly and discussing concerns as they arise. Daily we are taking steps to make sure we are all updated and ready to act in response to the circumstances that the Coronavirus may require us to face. We have been in close contact with local hospitals and local health departments to make sure we are connected and following the most up to date procedures to respond in this time of national emergency.

All of you are using health care grade cleaners in the homes. We have cleaned the Caro therapy center and our most medically vulnerable homes and bedrooms using UVC light cleaning methods. This is similar to what many hospitals are using to disinfect their surfaces. We will utilize this service according to the vendor's availability in each location.

It is important you know that while you may not see us or hear from us directly during this time, we are working very hard behind the scenes as a team to maximize everyone's safety. We are here for you, we are behind you, we value you, and we appreciate all of you. WE APPRECIATE YOU ALL SO MUCH!

If you have suggestions or recommendations for things that we can do in addition to the precautions and procedures we have put in place so far, we want to hear them. Please share them with your supervisors so they can be considered for implementation. We already heard some great ideas from you of how we can try to reduce risks, please keep the good ideas coming!

So easily in a time like this fear can turn into panic. Now more than ever, we must strive to be balanced. We want to acknowledge the concerns and dangers of what is happening, but don't allow those concerns and fears to turn into panic. We are trying to control everything within our control at the Lighthouse, and we know that you are doing your best to control what you can control at your homes when you leave work to go home to your very special family. While we strive to not let fear change to panic, lets also be mindful that going too far the other way can be harmful as well. Being careless, and disregarding precautions is not responsible at this time either. Find balance. Take precautions. Don't be careless, but don't panic.

We are praying for The Lighthouse, our residents, our residents' families, YOU, and your families as well. We are praying for our local, state, national, and world leaders as we go forward with courage to limit the damage of COVID-19.

I heard a song and shared this chorus at our management meeting this morning as the words reminded me of where our hope and trust should be focused during this time:

So let the storms rage high, the dark clouds rise They won't worry me

For I'm sheltered safe within the arms of God

He walks with me and naught of earth shall harm me

For I'm sheltered in the arms of God

Dorothea Wilson