

Goodwin House Public Statement | May 29, 2020

Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

Below, please read a letter that we distributed via email to families and friends of Goodwin House Residents on Monday, May 29, 2020.

My oh my, how the month of May has flown by! As Northern Virginia takes its first steps toward re-opening, we at Goodwin House are working steadily to begin implementing Phase 1 of “Our Safe Path Forward” - the plan that outlines a gradual and fluid reopening on our campuses.

By tomorrow, all residents will have received a version of Our Safe Path Forward. We call it a “version” because this document will be a living, breathing document. We will adjust as we receive new guidelines from Governor Northam and local health departments, and as our own health indicators (especially the number of cases within our community) allow.

It is important that our residents and staff maintain critical infection precaution safeguards, especially as society re-opens. As we’re communicating this message to residents, we’re also reinforcing infection precaution diligence with our staff. Read what we’ve shared with residents about Our Safe Path Forward in this week’s Resident Update.

Protecting Resident Privacy

When sharing updates about COVID-19 cases within our communities, we offer as much information as needed to keep you and your loved ones safe. We realize there is often a desire for more details; however, we are legally bound to privacy.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) governs our privacy regulations where it concerns an individual’s health records. By law, HIPAA outlines certain types of information that we can and cannot share when communicating about an individual.

We are required by law to make sure that health information that identifies each person is kept private. As relates to COVID-19, this means that we legally cannot share identifying information when we notify you about a case. This is why we cannot share the names of people within our community who have contracted COVID-19, and also why you may find some of the wording in our communications about cases to be somewhat vague. Please know that we continue to prioritize your loved one’s health and safety while working within the limits of the law.

*We are committed to keeping you, residents and staff healthy.
Please join us in our efforts to keep our community infection-free.*



Testing Progress

Testing continues across both GHA and GHBC campuses. We have learned of a few staff cases as a result of this testing, though the vast majority of tests for staff and residents have come back negative. A few results were inconclusive, and those individuals have been re-tested. By next Tuesday, we hope to have completed this proactive baseline testing of all residents and all staff.

The Good Life

Were you aware that we publish a monthly newsletter that features content from our blog? The Good Life is released at the end of every month. We share four top blog articles as well as interesting news clips about Goodwin House. This month's issue features an update on the Goodwin House Foundation's ongoing efforts to support our employee heroes, an article about how to cope through bear financial markets, information about our age-in-place program and details about how we celebrated National Nurses Week.

Our next issue will be released tomorrow morning. Enjoy a sneak peek, and if you're interested in subscribing, [click here](#).

Here Comes the Sun

Or so we hope! As we move into summer, we're looking forward to brighter days ahead. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy end of May and an even happier start to June!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out [[link](#)].