



June 30, 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the parents and family members of Apostolic Christian LifePoints residents. I would particularly like to recognize and address some of the concerns of the parents and family members of our residents.

As you know when this virus hit, we were all asked to immediately shelter at home. For us that meant all residents stopping day programs, home visits and all outings.

As time has passed the Governor of Illinois developed a plan with 5 phases for gradually easing up the sheltering.

For health care and particularly services funded and regulated by the Department of Public Health and those overseen by the Department of Human Services there were some expectations which were more stringent than those issued for the general population. These directives do not correspond with the Governor's phases.

As the rest of the state has started reengaged we are looking closely at what we can do. Some of you are aware that we have started outdoor visits for family members. These include measures to mitigate risk and include being restricted to safe distances. We have also begun some very limited community engagement when we are able to do it without having contact with people we don't know. We are also looking closely at family home visits.

Some people have asked why we are being so restrictive. We are very aware that this is creating an emotional burden for our residents and for their parents in particular.

There are two agencies which over see us have taken different approaches. There are also guidelines by the CDC which healthcare organizations need to take very seriously.

Public Health was very prescriptive in what they allow and what they do not allow. We are required to follow these guidelines. I don't want to give the impression that we disagree. We have mixed feelings. We serve some very vulnerable people in all our settings. We are sure that if we have some occurrence of COVID we have people who could become very ill, suffer greatly and be at risk of death.

The Department of Human Services is less stringent. In their communication they ask us to develop plans and assess risks and how to meet those risks. Unfortunately they also emphasize how vulnerable our population is and that we must take full responsibility for their safety and welfare.

So what does all this mean for our residents and their families?

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
LifePoints

1. We want you to know that we care very much about your family member's welfare and about your welfare.
2. We understand that it is emotionally very distressing to not see family members and not go into the community.
3. We know we cannot avoid all risks but we are confident you want us to do what is right to protect the well-being of your family member as well as the welfare of other people they live with.
4. We want to do all that we can to safely facilitate family interaction and engagement in the community.
5. We will continue to assess the level of risk for our residents and we will strive diligently to find ways to interact that do not create unacceptable risk.

We know there are many opinions about the seriousness of COVID and about what kinds of activities create risk for our residents. We appreciate the patience you have shown. We need you to continue to work with us as we seek for answers and make decisions.

We appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we make decisions and your prayers for the welfare of your family member and the welfare of those they live with.

Thanks,

Ron Messner

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