



## **Reason We are Restricting Individuals from Entering our Building**

The current COVID-19 outbreak situation means that it is critical that we take every precaution possible. We must prevent this virus from entering our center. Protecting our residents' and tenants' health and safety is our top priority.

The Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) has done a careful review of the death rate in the elderly, especially those with dementia or chronic diseases. Experts are recommending we take action to limit individuals from entering our building and to ensure sick employees stay home.

Early data shows that

- The mortality rate for people over 80 in the general population is 15% in China.
- The World Health Organization report estimates the mortality rate at 21.9% for those over 80.
- At the nursing home in Washington state, there have been 50 residents who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. As of March 9, 2020, 19 of those have died. This is a high death rate.

There is a risk that people who appear healthy will enter nursing homes and infect residents. Studies of past viral epidemics where recommending prevention was delayed were not effective. These studies show that the sooner we limit interactions with each other and wash your hands frequently virus spreads more slowly.

These facts have led many to recommend severe limitations on visitors. This describes why we have taken this action now.

We hope this explains to you why we are asking people to limit their visits. This may prevent you from physically seeing your family member or friend. Our residents' health and safety are our top concern. We are committed to doing everything we can to protect them.

Please feel free to contact Heather Sells or Melissa Debner at 319-278-4900 with any questions. Please make sure we have your latest contact information. Thank you for supporting these efforts.

Sincerely,

Heather Sells, MSW, LNHA

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