



June 10, 2020

Residents and Family,

Over the last few months many have asked me for my thoughts on a timeline on when we would be able to start having visits. Until late last week I did not have much in the way of an answer. However, Monday morning we received the final version of the phased plan referenced in the Governor's recent executive order. The phased plan document we received from the state and the Governor's recent executive order will both be included with this letter. The intent in including these original documents is to be completely transparent with all of you. Not only do I want our plan and timing to be very clear but I also want you to be aware of the source of the information.

Below is a brief excerpt out of the Governor's executive order referencing the attached plan:

"It is hereby ordered: the current restrictions on visitation in skilled nursing and basic care facilities are modified; visitation in skilled nursing and basic care facilities may resume under a phased approach, based upon factors outlined in ND Smart Restart: Vulnerable Population Protection Plan (ND Smart Restart: VP3). The phased approach to visitation in ND Smart Restart: VP3 applies to all long-term care facilities in North Dakota, including Assisted Living Facilities."

Phase Direction:

Within the phased plan, we **do** have latitude as a facility to be more restrictive than the phased plan. However we have no intention of doing that because we believe the plan is solid and provides a good framework to go off of. And to clarify, we **do not** have the latitude to pick which phase we want to start in. After receiving the final documents on Monday I called the state to officially start us in the process. In order to pass into Phase 1 we had to meet various "gating criteria". One of note was the necessity of 90% participation in two mass Covid testing events, which we thankfully already met with the last two testing events. Monday the state informed me we were able to move into Phase 1.

Timeline:

June 8, 2020 is our official start of Phase 1. We are required to be in Phase 1 for fourteen days. In order to move into Phase 2 the primary step is to go through an additional mass Covid testing event. In order to move through the phases as fast as possible we have scheduled the next testing event for June 17th, with the idea that all the results would be back prior to the end of the fourteen day period. If all other factors are satisfactory the intent is to move into **Phase 2 on June 22nd**. With the hopes of being able to transition into Phase 3 as soon as possible we have already scheduled the subsequent mass Covid



testing required for transition into Phase 3 for July 1st. Again this was done with the idea of getting the results back before the end of the fourteen day period in Phase 2. If all other factors are satisfied the goal is to move into **Phase 3 on July 6th**.

Highpoints:

Phase 1: Continuation of the outside visits, as well as relaxation of some of the communal dining and group activities restrictions (see plan for details).

Phase 2: This is when we can start limited visits in the home (see plan for details).

Phase 3: Further relaxation of visits, gatherings and travel outside the facility (see plan for details).

As we move through the process more information will be coming out. In fact the plan itself may be adjusted by the state. Our intent is to follow the direction of the state. This is a great deal of information, and the fact that it may be altered in the future makes it even more so. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me.

We have traveled a great distance since this started, and we have almost arrived. I pray we can navigate the final steps with wisdom and grace. Together I believe we can.

God Bless,

Michael Curtis
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Nursing Home Administrator
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