Tuesday, March 31 – 3:30 p.m.

Organizational Update

Good afternoon,

First, we’ll note that at this time, there are **no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our Villages** and we have had several negative tests returned from Public Health Units in several locations. Let’s continue to work hard to keep it that way, but also prepare to a positive case.

We know there is a lot of communication, but in a pandemic, things change rapidly. As we endeavour to pass along the most up to date information, sometimes it means changing directions quickly. Thanks for your patience as comply with directives and new information.

No changes to our Essential Visitors/Return-to-Work policies or Active Screening Protocols – Temperature Checks will remain in place at all screening for the duration of the pandemic.

Anyone Who Fails Screening is Not Permitted to Enter and We Strongly Recommend Residents in both LTC and our Retirement Homes only leave if it is absolutely necessary.

**New MOH Directives**

Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health released new directives last night with an extensive list of changes that will have major operational implications for our teams.

Note: The **Screening Protocols are a significant change**. We now must apply active screening, including temperature checks, to all team members upon entry at beginning of shift and upon exit at end of shift. Additionally, we must now screen all residents twice daily for any sign of symptoms, including no-touch temperature checks.

**PPE Update**

We want to assure our teams that we remain confident in our reserve supply of all Personal Protective Equipment. However, we must only use this important equipment when warranted under Infection Control protocols to ensure we aren’t needlessly wasting supplies.

**Groups of Five or More**

We want to provide clarity in regards to limiting groups to no more than five people. This recommendation is for external community gatherings; our internal community is different. Residents and rare essential visitors entering are Village are actively-screened.

Our recommendation continues to be for Villages to use their discretion and at all times consider space and social distancing for group programming. We know most Villages are already doing this.

For example, consider more neighbourhood-based programming and use larger space (the lounge/dining room) where residents can sit safe distances apart. If rooms on main street are being used (i.e. fitness centre), consider having a smaller, neighbourhood-focused approach, where residents are joining activities from the same neighbourhood.

Please remember that any equipment used during programming must be cleaned after each use and we discourage using equipment that is shared between residents in one program (i.e. ball toss).

Thank you for all you do!