



November 12, 2020

Dear Valley View Friend and Family Member,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this communication to you. We now find ourselves in the throes of COVID-19 cases on our campus. Despite our vigilant efforts over the course of the last nine months, we now have a growing number of residents and team members testing positive with this virus. As of this communication, we have four (4) Cottage, one (1) Terrace, and forty-five (45) Haven-Nursing residents testing positive. With deep sadness, we share that two residents who tested positive for COVID-19 have passed away. We certainly lift their families up in prayer during this difficult time and share in their loss.

Despite successfully navigating through two Department of Health (DOH) Infection Control Surveys with no deficient practice found, as well as months of ongoing consultation with DOH Epidemiology Department, PA's Health Care Coalition, Penn State College of Medicine's Project ECHO, and the screening and testing of team members, we find our efforts could not curtail our current situation.

A recent study from Harvard University, with support from the National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Health, found that the intensity of COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes mirrored the rate of spread among the general public. As the prevalence of COVID-19 grows in our state and in Mifflin County, we remain committed to our internal efforts of taking extra measures to keep residents and team members as safe as we can. Given the results of this study, we appeal to the greater community to do all they can as well.

It is important for you to know we remain steadfast in our work that includes the ongoing testing of team members and residents for the quick identification of any new cases, the temporary relocation of residents who have tested positive to a designated area, the construction of zip-doors, which aid with quarantining measures, and enhanced laundering and housekeeping measures. We also remain committed to our ongoing dialogue with you and our goal to get through this together.

Although it can be hard some days, we strive as a campus to seek a bigger message. Today it came at the hands of an unknown author who penned the following during WWII.

***“I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love,
even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God,
even when He is silent.”***

With great resolve,
Nicole Sarver, CEO