



April 27, 2020

Dear Residents of RiverWoods Exeter, RiverWoods Durham and Birch Hill,

Today, we start with some sad news. Our Birch Hill community has had three health center residents who were COVID-19 positive pass away. This was not entirely unexpected, as all three of the residents were on hospice, but it is still an incredibly sad time for us as a community and a family of communities. All of our thoughts and prayers are with their families, and with the health care staff in Manchester, who dedicated so much of their time and love to caring for these residents over the years. These are hard times for all, and this has certainly made it a little harder.

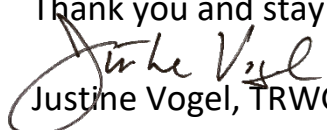
While we continue to do everything possible to contain the virus, including limiting any “movement” in the health center, symptom testing, and full PPE for all staff, the long period of asymptomatic or presymptomatic conditions makes this quite a challenge.

The good news is that many of the residents and staff who were asymptomatic and tested positive remain asymptomatic, now eleven days later. We know this virus is tricky, and that this can change, but we are heartened by this news.

Understanding how hard it is to contain any spread of the virus requires us to double down on our restrictions that are in place for the communities for right now. As we see other states and areas starting to “open up,” please realize that states are doing this for economic reasons, not health and safety. For the immediate time being, and likely for the next few weeks, we will not be changing any of our restrictions, though we will start to discuss and plan for what that may look like from a variety of operational standpoints. All will be connected to maintaining the status of no positive cases amongst our independent living residents.

These are definitely challenging times, but I am glad we are all in this together. On our afternoon Zoom call with the Executive Directors and some of our other leaders, we talked about what we missed most, and what we are learning... and we are learning a lot. We are learning how connected our teams are to the central goal of keeping you, and our staff teams safe and healthy; how creative people can be to meet that goal, and how important it is to remember that we are as safe as we can be, and we are in this *with* one another and *for* one another.

Thank you and stay healthy my friends!


Justine Vogel, TRWG CEO

