



Living Care

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

RETIREMENT APARTMENTS: LIVING COURT • LIVING VIEW • GABLE VIEW • VALLEY VIEW • SENIOR VIEW • COOK

Mar. 4, 2021

Dear Residents,

This month is the 12-month anniversary of the COVID-19 lockdowns. While this is not an anniversary that we wish to celebrate per se, it is certainly one that causes us to reflect. The end of March 2020 our world was rocked as wide-spread lockdowns and restrictions were announced across our state and across our world. Even before the official statewide proclamations started, Living Care had already begun reacting to the growing concern and apparent spread of the coronavirus. From day one, the safety of our residents and staff has been our #1 priority, also recognizing the emotional and physical toil that this pandemic and its restrictions has had on all of us.

The Living Care management team has been meeting on a weekly basis since this pandemic started. Given the unique make-up of our campus, there has been quite a matrix of regulations that we've had to interpret, implement and at the same time try to communicate effectively and efficiently to all of our residents. There are different State guidelines for nursing homes, for assisted living facilities, for independent living, for restaurants and other dining establishments, for fitness centers, salons, places of worship, etc. We report to multiple authorities, such as CMS, the Yakima Dept. of Health, and State level authorities. Many times, these guidelines come in complex multi-page reports and lengthy proclamations, and they change frequently. To be honest, often it's difficult to make sense of how and why one activity is allowed, but another one is not, yet we strive to comply both as responsible citizens and as a responsible business, but also with all of your safety in mind.

For our independent apartment residents specifically, there has been a level of grey area that we as a management team have wrestled with on a regular basis to fairly, reasonably and safely interpret and apply guidelines on our campus to the best of our ability. While you our beloved residents live in an independent setting, we also recognize that there is a high level of vulnerability for seniors living in a communal setting who are in a high-risk demographic. These decisions have not always been easy or straight forward but have come with much prayer, discussion and seeking of guidance.

In all decisions, we have tried to encourage compliance with Federal, State and County regulations while also considering the unique setting that all of you live in. For example, we've interpreted each individual building as a "household" as the residents in that building, although inhabiting private apartments, share the common areas of the building as their household.

A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated To The Care Of Our Senior Citizens

Business Office • 211 North 40th Avenue • Yakima, WA 98908-2900 • (509) 965-5260

A quick look at where we are today:

- We have just begun voluntary communal dining, with limited seating, in compliance with the Healthy Washington guidelines that allow for a maximum of 6 people per table, and 2 households per table. Given our definition of your apartment building as a household, the only time a second “household” would be at the table is with our Senior View or Cook residents who are on a meal plan joining you in the dining room.
- We are offering small fitness classes in the dining rooms. There are specific guidelines for fitness centers and the number of people allowed in a class based on the square-footage of the room. Our dining rooms are larger than our fitness center and as such, we are able to have 5 residents per class. The classes would be smaller, and we’d not be able to offer as many at this time, if we were in our fitness center.
- We’re requesting 2 visitors per day in private apartments to limit the number of people from the public who are in our buildings on a daily basis, and also given that the Phase 2 guidelines for indoor visits limits us to 2 households maximum gathering together indoors. You are welcome to come and go as you feel comfortable, using safe practices, and may visit with more than 2 people off campus, for instance at one of your children’s homes.
- We are offering weekly chaplain’s devotionals. Indoor worship services are still limited to 25% capacity and masks and social distancing still required for these services, which we can accommodate well in our dining rooms.
- Since our courtesy car driver, Cathie, retired, we’ve been seeking to hire her replacement. At the moment our bus driver Wayne is driving the courtesy car. As soon as we can hire a new courtesy car driver, we will be able to transition Wayne back to driving the bus and re-instate grocery buses and scenic drives.
- Our salons are open with careful sanitation and safety protocols for our residents.

As staffing and State and Local guidelines allow, we look forward to slowly offering more activities safely on our campus. We thank you for your continued patience and support. You are our reason for being here and we are honored to serve you.

Sincerely,

Eva Lounsbury

Resident Services Director