



# Living Care

## RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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

Mar. 24, 2021

Dear Residents,

As you all know, every county in Washington State was moved to Phase 3 this week. This is good news and you will see some changes in our community and on our campus in light of this! Please note however that each county is set to be reviewed every 3 weeks to determine whether they can stay in their current phase, or whether they may need to step back a phase again. This first re-evaluation will take place on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. This week the Yakima Herald reported that to stay in phase 3, among other criteria, Yakima County will need to have fewer than 200 cases per 100,000 over a 14-day period (or no more than 36 new cases per day on average). At present, according to the Herald, our county is averaging more like 45 new cases per day.

As such, and whether vaccinated or not, we are all still strongly encouraged by the Yakima Health District and other authorities to continue to remain vigilant with safety measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing. Per the CDC's website, "We're still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more." (More information on the attached document)

At Living Care, we continue to work hard to stay in compliance with local guidelines. We also recognize and must take into careful consideration that our residents are high risk and live communally. This brings both unique challenges and also positive opportunities. We will continue to slowly open up as allowed and prudent, but also in a careful manner.

Activities – you are receiving today from our Activities Director, Jennifer, some upcoming changes to our on-campus activities. If you have questions about these, please contact her at 965-5278.

Dining – starting Monday 3/29 our dining rooms will be reset to their normal table configurations. More information about dining will soon be coming out from our Director of Foodservices, Travis. Please note, our dining rooms are still open for residents only (no guests).

Visitation – we are working on getting our outdoor seating areas set up for the season. With spring here, we are going to encourage you to visit with off-campus (non-resident) guests outside as much as possible. For both indoor and outdoor gatherings with non-residents, we are going to request that you have no more than 5 guests at a time on campus. If the weather is not conducive for an outdoor visit, these guests may still visit you inside your private apartment (but not in any public spaces in your building such as seating areas, activity rooms and libraries). Thank you for visiting safely and with consideration for your neighbors, some of whom may still be choosing to limit their contact with the general public.

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Upcoming vaccine clinics: We are pleased to announce that we will have vaccine clinics on campus every 4 weeks for the foreseeable future. Although the specific vaccine could change in the future, these clinics are currently offering the Moderna vaccine in coordination with Tieton Village Pharmacy. If you are interested in receiving this vaccine, please notify Resident Services. The next clinic will be about 4 weeks from today.

A note on vaccination status: We've been hearing a lot of questions recently from residents regarding staff and resident vaccination status. While we understand everyone's curiosity out of a deep desire to see an end to this pandemic, I do need to remind you that whether an individual has received the vaccine or not is private protected health information, protected by HIPAA. We offered vaccine clinics on our campus earlier this year and all staff and residents were given the opportunity to receive the Pfizer vaccine. We have strongly encouraged residents and staff to receive a vaccine, and will continue to do so, but vaccination is not mandated. Each individual, in coordination with their family and their personal doctors, has had to try to make the best decision for themselves personally, given their own private health considerations and conscience. As with any private healthcare matter, we will not discriminate against individuals based on their decision to receive a vaccine or not. In fact, we as staff may not always know who has or has not received a vaccine unless they choose to tell us given that this is protected health information. While I understand that some of you have had concerns about this, I would ask you to please refrain from asking other residents or staff about their vaccination status.

On a final note, I don't want to miss this opportunity to acknowledge the Easter season we are in.

Just a few days from now starts Holy Week, the week preceding Easter, and the last week of Lent. While Easter is commonly a fun time for families in general, celebrated with family gatherings, Easter egg hunts and of course a nice meal, for many of us it is also a solemn and holy season. A season of remembrance and also of celebration. This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday where we remember Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

***The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Matt. 21:9***

Next Thursday is Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his Apostles. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, followed by the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

***"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:6***

Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, for those of us from the Christian faith tradition, is a tremendous time of celebration. In that spirit, I want to wish you all a heartfelt Happy Easter season!

Sincerely,

Eva Lounsbury

Resident Services Director