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## Coronavirus – COVID-19 Update

March 6, 2020

Dear Residents and Homewood Community,

Since last Friday, we have been in regular contact with local, state and federal agencies to keep updated on information about COVID-19 and the impact it has on our community. Last night, Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency for Maryland as three (3) confirmed cases of the virus were reported. The state of emergency is to initiate the mobilization of staff and funding to meet the needs of people in response to the virus. The three (3) confirmed cases are in Montgomery County and related to travel. All three cases are reported to be doing well clinically and their illness is categorized as mild to moderate. Agencies are in the process of “contact tracing” for those positive cases. The virus is spread from “person to person” and is categorized as either “travel” or “community” related exposure.

As of today, there have been **no** community related exposure cases of the virus reported in Maryland.

At this time there are no large scale closures (ie. Schools) recommended.

You can access information by going on the CDC- Centers for Disease Control website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html> or by calling Maryland’s Coronavirus – COVID-19 information line “311”

Homewood Retirement Communities is taking the threat of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) seriously and implementing precautions to protect our campus residents, co-workers, and visitors. It is interesting to note that the general strategies recommended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in long term care facilities are the same strategies our facilities use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses, such as influenza.

Our team has been meeting regularly and has implemented the following additional actions to be proactive in the prevention of this virus to our campus:

- ✓ Updated Virus information at main entrances, bulletin boards, areas across campus
- ✓ Access to hand sanitizers – Hand washing instructions
- ✓ Travel history and symptom screening of new admissions, residents.
- ✓ Monitoring of resident and co-worker travel to “high risk” areas according to CDC

- ✓ Monitoring of all infection control practices for co-workers
- ✓ Review and update of our Pandemic Disease Plan

Please continue to do your best at staying healthy throughout this "season" and practice the following:

- ✓ Wash your hands, Wash your hands, Wash your hands
- ✓ Avoid close contact with others, especially those with symptoms or those with travel exposure.
- ✓ Properly cover cough and sneezes
- ✓ Practice good healthy habits
- ✓ Don't hesitate to call your medical provider
- ✓ Consider postponing travel to high risk areas

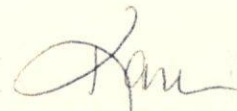
We will continue to provide updates for developing changes as they are learned.  
If any of you have questions or concerns please contact one of the following people:

Vicki Keriakos, Director of Nursing                      301-644-5607

Barb Kunkle, Infection control Nurse                      301-644-5633

Karen Main, Executive Director                      301-644-5609

Thank you for your patience and efforts! Stay Healthy!



Karen G. Main