



A National Lutheran Community

**To:** All Residents, Families and Team Members

**From:** Kyle Hreben, Executive Director

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Subject:** Path Forward Update

## Memorandum

Our community continues to take remarkable steps forward! Last week, surveyors from the Maryland Department of Health visited The Village at Rockville for our COVID Infection Control Survey. I am pleased to report that our community achieved a deficiency free survey! This is a great accomplishment and an encouragement for our entire team as they have focused on fighting COVID-19 for months, making daily efforts to keep residents and each other safe and well.

As part of Path Forward, our phased re-opening plan that follows the requirements set forth by the state of Maryland and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), we began our state-mandated weekly staff testing on Monday, July 13. This weekly testing is a prerequisite to beginning our phased re-opening, which includes offering outdoor visitation.

Our team is making the logistical preparations to begin outdoor visitation so that as soon as we receive authorization from the state Department of Health, we can move quickly to reconnect our residents and families. Outdoor visitation sign-ups will be available through the Path Forward page on our website [www.thevillageatrockville.org/pathforward](http://www.thevillageatrockville.org/pathforward) as soon as we receive authorization from the state to permit outdoor visitations. Virtual visits will also continue during this time.

As a reminder, to accommodate as many residents and families as possible, outdoor visitation will be held in 30-minute sessions on our patios, weather permitting. Visits require a team member to be present, appropriate social distancing, masks must be worn and temperature and symptom screenings will occur for all participants prior to the visit. Additionally, the resident is allowed a maximum number of two guests during the visit.

As we move forward, team member weekly testing will occur each Monday and Tuesday, followed by an expected lab processing time of three to five days, which could increase as the local area testing increases. We are working closely with our lab partner to ensure timely processing so that we can take this next step forward in outdoor visitation.

The Department of Health continues to provide guidance that if our team members or residents experience any new cases (outside of our third floor observation neighborhood) between now and re-opening or after re-opening that we may be required to remain or return to our pre-Phase 1 restrictions. While this will be a difficult step to take, our primary focus remains on the safety and well-being of our residents and team members.

As I've expressed many times, I am grateful for the encouragement and appreciation from our residents and families. We do look forward to experiencing the joy of reconnecting soon!