



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES

OF NORTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED

PROUDLY SERVING OLDER ADULTS SINCE 1951

Reed VanderSlik
President and CEO

April 7, 2020

To Team Members:

New information and prevention guidelines continue to emerge. As we learn about these we make appropriate adjustments in our policies and procedures.

Early on, the use of masks was discouraged unless you had a positive diagnosis for COVID-19. Over the last several days, new information indicates that wearing masks does offer additional protection to the wearer of the mask as well as those surrounding them.

The challenge facing all health care providers has been securing a sufficient number of masks. The N95 mask is the best mask but due to limited supplies, it is being utilized only in cases where there is a confirmed case and typically in the health care settings. Paper masks are the least effective. Therefore, cloth masks are our best option from an infection control standpoint and have the advantage of being laundered and reused.

As the new recommendations emerged early last week regarding masks, we started securing a sufficient quantity of masks. We were fortunate to find a local supplier and we placed an order, which will be completely delivered on Wednesday, April 8.

Our clinical leadership is steadily working on procedures to appropriately launder the cloth masks for reuse and we will begin requiring all team members to wear masks by the end of this week. They worked with the manufacturer of the masks and our laundry departments to ensure we have a good process for cleaning and reusing the masks. There will be a process and procedure for you to review, understand and sign.

We understand the sight of every team member wearing a mask will initially be a little unsettling. We take this step because it is expected to provide another level of safety. Our residents and team members are precious and we want to continue to provide the safest environment possible.

As always, feel free to reach out to your supervisor with any questions or concerns.

Be safe and be healthy.

With Love and Concern

Reed VanderSlik