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## COVID-19 UPDATE

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**TO:** WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF  
**FROM:** MATT RIEHLE  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 31, 2020

It is with mixed emotions that I put the final date of the calendar year on this memo. Undoubtedly 2020 will most likely be remembered as one of the most challenging years that most of us can recall. The difficulties and stressors that COVID-19 has heaped upon us are well documented and we remember all of those that have been impacted in so many ways. However, we continue to be amazed by the resilience of our residents, staff, our families, and our friends. No matter how difficult times may have been, day after day our community continues to work together and support each other as we move into the prospects of a New Year! Barb has just submitted a letter to the editor of the Pantagraph that we as a Leadership team hope will get published. It is a note on behalf of all senior living, but with Westminster on the forefront, as a debt of gratitude for the forgotten frontline healthcare worker, those that work in communities such as ours. While our community nurses and first responders are amazing, so too are those that show up every day at Westminster to do whatever they can for those that they serve in so many different ways.

As hard as some of these recent days have been, we just received that first glimmer of hope yesterday as we were informed by CVS that our first COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be next Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup>. What a New Year's blessing! We believe this will be for all Martin Health Center residents, Assisted Living residents, and all staff. At this time, they have indicated there is not enough vaccine for Independent Living, however we are in constant contact with the Health Department and have advocated for access and to host a clinic as soon as we are able. We truly believe this will be the first giant step to help relax visitation requirements and to give us the hope to reunite loved ones. This will not be immediately, and we will still need to take the same stringent precautions, but we are definitely moving in the right direction.

In our surveillance testing this week we had 5 additional staff that tested positive and are doing well. We still have some outstanding tests to return but we currently have 7 residents in Martin Health Center that have tested positive and are being treated accordingly. As always, these staff and residents are in our prayers. We have not received results back for Assisted Living so far, but everyone is doing as well as can be expected.

As we start the New Year tomorrow, please let there be a feeling of hope and the ability to share and extend grace to all. So many times, we cannot truly understand all of the challenges and difficulties that we are individually going through, which has been exponentially exacerbated by this virus. We can and we will see a better day and it will be the community and all the blessings that we share, that will allow us to support and help each other through these trying times. As I have heard so often, 2021 has to be a better year! May you have a blessed New Year and look forward to the good to come in 2021!