



## Ascension Living

June 11, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members,

Earlier this week you received communication from Ascension Living President, Danny Stricker. A brief portion of that letter addressed the lifting of visitor restrictions at Ascension Living's Independent Living communities. As a result, many of you have contacted Our Lady of Peace with questions about what it will look like when we begin lifting restrictions. I am extremely grateful for everyone's patience during this time we have been challenged to keep this virus out of our community and apologize if that letter caused confusion. I am certain that everyone who lives at OLP is anxious to have the restrictions lifted and I can assure you that all our associates who work here are also anxious to have these restrictions lifted.

We have always expected that lifting the restrictions would be complicated and as we have started planning for this we have identified many questions. Because there are many jurisdictions involved and there are recommendations coming from the Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare, state and local health departments, as well as Ascension Living.

We are busy working on our reopening plans now and will share them soon. We understand your desire to see your loved ones quickly and are doing all we can to make that happen, while ensuring their continued safety. Factors that will inform our decisions about relaxing restrictions in those communities will include:

1. **COVID case status in surrounding area:** State-based criteria to determine the level of community transmission and guide progression from one phase to another.
2. **Case status in our community:** Absence of any COVID cases (resident or staff).
3. **Adequate staffing:** No staffing shortages.
4. **Access to adequate testing:** We must meet the state requirements.
5. **Access to adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff:** We must ensure consistent availability of appropriate PPE for staff, when indicated. This includes our ability to ensure universal masking.
6. **Local hospital capacity:** Ability for the local hospital to accept transfers from nursing homes.

A community may need to revert to precautions of an earlier phase based on possible resurgence of infections within the surrounding area, the community itself, continued access to adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and local hospital capacity. We will continue to rely on experts for guidance on the most effective measures to help keep our residents and associates safe, healthy and connected during this historic time.

As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 716-298-2929 or [jon.hart@ascension.org](mailto:jon.hart@ascension.org).

Sincerely,



Jonathan Hart  
Executive Director  
Our Lady of Peace