



23 June 2020

Dear Residents/Family Members,

We did not issue a letter last week and have a lot to catch up on. As you are probably aware, cases in Texas are on the rise, with an additional 5,000 cases expected to be reported today (a new high in daily cases).

Hallmark has also seen additional COVID activity over the past several days. On Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, one of our employees was diagnosed with COVID-19 and is currently at home recuperating. This employee only works as needed (PRN) and had not worked for almost a week prior to testing positive. Our policy requires that any employee must have two (2) negative tests prior to returning to work.

Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> saw our first resident in skilled nursing test positive. Hallmark has activated our COVID-19 response unit to accommodate this resident, who currently is asymptomatic. We are also working closely with the Department of Health, CDC and Texas Health and Human Services (HSSC) to ensure proper processes are in place.

Based on these trends, and after hearing from several of you, we are initiating the following:

- We are in process of arranging for onsite testing for IL residents. Further details coming soon.
- Skilled nursing residents and staff will be retested.
- We are curtailing (even more) the use of private sitters in skilled nursing.
- We are delaying the re-opening of the dining room previously scheduled for Jun 29<sup>th</sup>. Once a new date is selected, we will communicate additional details.

I have the pleasure of working with a great team of department heads and employees. Sitting together over the past few days, responding to changing situations has reminded me of just how blessed we are at The Hallmark to have such a caring and responsive team.

Please continue to stay safe and well as we work together through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harold Ermshar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harold Ermshar  
Executive Director