

February 28, 2020

# Communiqué

## Coronavirus Information

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is receiving increased attention as the number of confirmed cases continues to rise worldwide. At the present time, no immediate threat to Willow Valley Communities has been identified. However, Willow Valley Communities is monitoring events related to the Coronavirus on an ongoing basis. Please be assured that the health and well-being of our Residents, Team Members, and Guests is our top concern.

It is important to share information about this illness and the steps that Willow Valley Communities (WVC) and Residents can take to decrease the risk of the virus occurring on the campuses.

Just like many viruses, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can spread by contact, sneezing, or coughing. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend these actions to help prevent the spread of all respiratory diseases:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow the CDC's recommendations for using a facemask as listed below:
  - ◇ CDC does **not** recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - ◇ Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

Residents at Willow Valley Communities have raised questions regarding travel. The status of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is rapidly changing; therefore, if you are interested in the most current information, please visit and follow the recommendations of the following websites, which are continually updated by recognized authorities:

- **World Health Organization — Daily situation reports**  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>
- **Travel advice**  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>

*(over please)*

**Willow Valley Communities is requesting that Residents and/or Team Members contact the Residential Nursing office to report:**

- If you have traveled out of the United States within the past 30 days;
- If you intend to travel internationally within the next three months;
- If you have any of the following symptoms: Fever, Cough, or Shortness of Breath;
- If you have any contact with someone who recently visited a high risk area, e.g., China.

Willow Valley Communities takes matters such as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) very seriously. Members of WVC's Leadership Team, WVC's Infection Control Committee, and our Medical Director have met, and will continue to meet as needed, to review policies, best practices, and proactive measures that should be taken to help mitigate risk to the Community. Please see the attached World Health Organization worksheet for your reference. We are asking Residents and Team Members to be proactive to help our community to continue to be a healthy and safe one.

We will continue to provide updates on this subject as additional, relevant information becomes available.

*Denny* — Dennis Griest, President and Chief Financial Officer