

# Justus CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



**November 20, 2020**

As the holidays approach, everyone is trying to adjust their plans in realization that the holidays in 2020 will look different than in previous years. Recent findings show the virus is being spread in smaller gatherings of family and friends where people let their guard down and do not wear masks or social distance. This as well as other factors have caused the number of cases in Indiana to skyrocket. Consequently, the risk of being in public or around others has greatly increased. Hope is on the horizon however, as the state prepares for distribution of COVID vaccines prioritized for senior living residents and staff and anticipated by the end of the year. Our Justus Senior Living Communities have partnered with CVS pharmacy in advance to coordinate an efficient distribution.

We continuously monitor updates from the Indiana Department of Health (IDH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state and national trade associations for information on new research, changes in guidance, vaccines, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and more. As a result of the dramatic increase in the number of cases in Indiana, the Indiana Department of Health has issued several updates around holidays, excursions and large gatherings.

## RECENT STATE GUIDANCE

**On November 6, the State Department of health released the following ...**

*Because most individuals living in senior living communities fall into the category of increased risk, the state Department of Health strongly recommends against families taking persons who reside in these communities to their homes or to gatherings for holiday events. This recommendation does not apply to residents who in the last 90 days have been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19.*

**On November 13, the State Department of Health released the following ...**

*Due to widespread community outbreaks of COVID-19, the State Department of Health strongly recommends against residents leaving communities for excursions, funerals and weddings currently. Individuals who leave the facility for these types of visits should be placed in quarantine for 14 days when returning. These recommendations do not apply to residents who in the last 90 days have been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19. Such individuals, however, must meet CDC criteria for discontinuing transmission-based precautions.*

## VISITATION OPTIONS

We realize how hard it is for families not to be together and want to offer as many options as possible for visits at the community to keep our residents safe and healthy and to protect the health of valuable staff members who provide care and services. This is especially important due to the high positivity rate in our state. We recommend residents remain in the community and visit with loved ones through one of the following ways:

**Telephone** – Staff can assist residents with how to do group calls.

**Web or Video Conferencing** – Staff will assist with visitation using technologies like FaceTime, Skype, Zoom or other web conferencing applications.

**Outdoor Visitation** – Weather permitting

**Outdoor Family – Indoor Resident** – This is a hybrid visitation type that we feel is the safest. The family remains outside, and the resident remains inside. This ensures the resident is kept warm and out of the elements while not being exposed to guests. Communities will have tents set up next to the building with possible heat source for the guests' comfort.

**Indoor Visitation** – Only if permitted by latest IDH guidelines and the COVID status of the community allows.

Please call the concierge to determine the best mode of visitation for you and to schedule visitation.

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING PLANS

Our teams are working hard to make this Thanksgiving extra special for our residents. The chefs are creating special menus and Life Enrichment teams are creating fun décor and engaging activities.

### **Woodland Terrace of Carmel**

**The Feast** – A special Thanksgiving menu is available from 11 am – 4pm for delivery to resident apartments. The menu features prime rib, turkey and thanksgiving favorites. Don't miss the dessert trio – apple pie, pumpkin pie, pecan pie.

**The Fun** – During Bountiful Harvest Week residents will enjoy Truth or Turkey Trivia, Thanksgiving Bingo to Go and a Pie Tasting Event (Pumpkin vs. Sweet Potato). The leadership team planned a special surprise toast with Thanksgiving meal deliveries and there is an evening movie.

### **Woodland Terrace of New Palestine**

**The Feast** – The Dining staff will host a Thanksgiving Day Buffet. There will be three seating times for social distancing and residents should make reservations. Servers will assist resident with their choices the meal will be plated for the resident.

**The Fun** – The theme for the season is Harvestival and all things planned fit with the harvest and farming from making apple butter, to a Wild Game Hunt, to a farmer's market to farming presentations.

### **Crestwood Village South**

**The Feast** – The Thanksgiving Feast will be hosted on Thursday at lunch. Residents will choose from either ham or turkey and select two of the four sides with a bread choice. The meal will end with a choice of pumpkin pie or sugar cream pie.

**The Fun** – Residents will enjoy Harvest Week with themed activities that include a Carmel Apple Pie beverage for Mocktail Monday, making apple butter, creating a holiday painting and participating in an interactive Corn Maze game.

### **Crestwood Village North**

**The Fun** – Residents engage by sharing their wisdom through a pen pal program with 8<sup>th</sup> graders, a competitive Turkey Trot Race or decorating their buildings for Christmas.

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COVID-19 has been difficult for everyone but especially for the residents and the staff, however they do an amazing job of encouraging one another. For example, how touching it was to see staff and residents sing God Bless America to our Veterans through the hallways and the tears welling in eyes. Residents' families have sent notes, flowers and meals to our teams to thank and encourage them for their service and we are grateful for their support.

Our hearts go out to the Woodland Terrace of Carmel Memory Care as they have been battling an outbreak and a big thank you to the staff who have continued to serve these residents. The other Justus Communities have remained without any new cases. For more information on each communities COVID stats, sign up to receive their Daily Update.

Please protect yourself, your loved ones, other residents and our staff by following all precautions and recommendations. While skipping a family gathering is difficult, it is important to realize the risk this can introduce to an entire community. Thank you for joining our efforts to keep the virus away from our residents.

During this season, we are choosing hope, we are choosing gratefulness, we are choosing patience and kindness and we are choosing faithful service to those entrusted to our care. May we all find ways to express our gratitude during this special season.

With Thanksgiving,

Justus Leadership