



FELLOWSHIP SENIOR LIVING

The Trusted Choice

August 20, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members, Visitors and Team Members,

If there is an emergency and you need to reach someone at Fellowship Village, please call 908-580-3824. New Jersey remains in a “holding pattern” for reopening and remains in Stage 2 of its phased reopening plan with the state’s COVID-19 transmission rate hovering around 1%. The coronavirus is finding new victims worldwide, in bars and restaurants, offices, markets and casinos, giving rise to frightening clusters of infection that increasingly confirm what many scientists have been saying for months: The virus lingers in the air indoors, infecting those nearby. Airborne transmission is a significant factor in this pandemic, especially in crowded spaces with poor ventilation, the consequences for containment is significant leading to the United States continue to add a significant number of new infections each day. Similar to New Jersey, Fellowship Senior Living will continue to be thoughtful, methodical and strategic with our precautions and reopening based on scientific data and metrics concerning the level of disease transmission risk.

The significant progress NJ and Fellowship has made is thanks to all of you staying vigilant and adhering to all the precautions. We must stay the course because the virus is still out there, compromising people’s health, and in too many cases, continuing to take lives. So, keep it up! Fellowship will continue to closely monitor, as the road back unfolds and appreciate that the Public Health, especially the older adults we serve, who are the most vulnerable, are protected. For this reason and with guidance from government agencies and health officials as the state lifts restrictions for many businesses and families, our Fellowship community along with other senior communities will lag behind, especially when indoor measures are lifted. Your health and safety are our most important priority. Please read this updated [Notice regarding restrictions](#) for visiting our Fellowship Village Community.

Our active independent residents at Fellowship Village are taking advantage of the warmer weather with outdoor activities including dining and visitation and some indoor activities. Public health experts have identified that outdoor environments present reduced risks of transmission as compared to indoor environments. Due to the nature of our Health Center at this time, we are limited to only providing visitation outside in a very controlled environment to best protect those who are at the greatest risk. Health Center (Assisted, Memory Care and Skilled Nursing) visitors must email lifenrichment@fellowshipsl.org and Independent Living visitors must schedule with our Community Center receptionist at 908-580-3800. All Visitors must adhere to the specific guidelines for the [Health Center](#) and for [Independent Living](#). Please remember that maintaining overall social distancing and mitigation requirements while gathering in open-air outdoor spaces, particularly by maintaining a six-foot distance from other individuals, washing hands and wearing face coverings, is imperative to continuing to reduce the ongoing risk of community spread of COVID-19.

Fellowship Village Life Plan Community (CCRC)

- Independent Living
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Sub-Acute Rehabilitation
- Outpatient Rehab & Wellness

Fellowship At Home Services

- Long-Term Care Plans
- Therapy at Home
- Home Care
- Concierge
- Care Management Services
- Hospice

Fellowship Village healthcare workers are on the front line every day – making the lives they serve better during these difficult times. I thank each of our team members for their spirit of engagement, compassion, and service to all those we care for and serve, especially our health care heroes who interact with our residents, clients, patients and members throughout the day. I recognize and appreciate that they are working tirelessly to ensure that everyone stays healthy and those we serve are properly cared for during these challenging times.

Our healthcare team continues to enact plans for protection against COVID-19 as based on CDC, CMS and NJDOH guidelines. Measures that have been implemented include:

- **No indoor visitation** to our Health Center except for end-of-life situations and **restriction of non-essential visitation** (friends, families, etc.) to our Fellowship Village independent living community; all doors will remain secured until further notice. Effective June 15th outside visitation is permitted by appointment.
- Provision of personal protective equipment for all team members
- PCR (nasal swab) COVID-19 weekly testing for all Fellowship Village team members and Health Center residents
- Antibody testing was performed for all residents across our campus and team members.
- Provision of washable 3 Ply 100% Cotton with Antimicrobial Finish to all residents and team members
- Changed labs to provide a 24 to 48 hour turnaround for COVID-19 testing instead of up to a week to facilitate a fast response of our protocols based on the test results
- Health Center Residents - Restricting non-essential packages/deliveries, no outside laundry service, and enacting social distancing during meal service and meal delivery
- Dining at Fellowship Village's independent living community resident dining areas have been suspended and replaced with take-out with extended hours from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm for proper social distancing with enhanced infection control precautions, prepackaged foods, and streamline selections for easy and quick service. Effective June 15th 2020 we started outdoor dining for our independent living residents while observing state guidelines.
- Recruitment of Dr. Natarajan, Infectious Disease Consultant, in conjunction with our Medical Director to provide infection control direction including treatment recommendations, surveillance, and response
- Continued refinement of an organization-wide COVID-19 plan and protocols
- Screening of all personnel, support services and patients to the Health Center and screening of essential visitors via the Main Community Entrance for risk of COVID-19 including **temperature checks**.
- **No visitation** to Fellowship Village independent living community by **volunteers**.
- Active, ongoing COVID-19 surveillance of all residents in our Health and Medical Centers
- Education of team members and residents about COVID-19 transmission and adhering to precautions through letters, notices, phone calls, virtual meetings, and conference calls.
- Screening of team member travel and requiring medical clearance for return to work
- Requiring team members to stay home or leave work if respiratory symptoms and/or fever appear and be tested and cleared by a physician before returning to work and monitoring of team member absenteeism
- Continued monitoring of CDC, CMS and NJDOH updates about appropriate COVID-19 response
- All large indoor group events and programming have been suspended. Live streaming from our new Fellowship Studio has been implemented along with content streamed to each Residents' home to help keep everyone engaged and connected. In observance of state and federal guidelines we are offering small group gatherings indoors.
- The salon reopened on June 22nd 2020 for independent residents while observing state guidelines and commencing in August we extended the services to our Health Center residents.

For more information about COVID-19, please refer to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov CDC resources will also be available at the main entrances of our community.

We strongly encourage everyone to follow CDC recommended practices that are proven to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Symptoms develop within 2 to 14 days of exposure and may include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, G.I. symptoms, and congestion with runny nose. Risk of severe illness is greater for older adults and those with chronic medical conditions. According to the CDC, the best measures toward minimizing risk are everyday actions that protect against the Flu. Below are the recommended actions:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, especially when using public restrooms, before eating and after touching public surfaces, e.g., handrails, door handles, elevator buttons, counters etc.
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if water and soap are not readily available
- Cover cough and sneeze with a tissue and discarding waste receptacle – wash hands afterwards
- Avoid shaking hands and touching eyes, mouth, and nose with unwashed hands
- Maintain a social distance of at least about 6 feet when someone appears ill
- Clean and disinfect touched objects and surfaces often
- Refrain from airline, mass transit and cruise travel to limit the risk of exposure within a confined area
 - Please check travel advisories at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.
- Avoid any confined areas with people may gather
- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. The cloth face mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.

I am blessed to have a dedicated, caring, and thoughtful team of professionals who are focused on your well-being and are working hard to stay abreast of this very dynamic situation and put in place the protocols as established by the CDC, CMS, NJDOH and our medical professionals.

If you are planning on visiting or entering our Fellowship Village campus, please refer to our [Notice](#) for restrictions and limitations. For those permitted on campus, please refrain from coming to Fellowship Village if any of the following are true:

- **Do you or someone close to you currently have or had in the last 24 hours fever (temperature of 100.0 F or above)? Please be aware your temperature will be verified before visiting.**
- **Do you or someone close to you currently have or had in the last 24 hours G.I. symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting) or symptoms of COVID-19, for example, fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, OR new loss of taste or smell?**
- **Have you or someone close to you had confirmed or suspected COVID-19 illness with any of the above symptoms in the past 5 weeks with or without hospitalization and were not cleared by a physician to discontinue quarantine?**
- **Have you or someone close to you traveled by air internationally within the last 14 days?**
- **Have you or someone close to you taken a cruise in the last 14 days or participated in other settings where crowds are confined to a common location?**
- **Have you or someone close to you been in contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID-19, confirmed COVID-19 test result, or someone ill with respiratory symptoms in the past 14 days?**
- **Have you or someone close to you reside in or travels to/from a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring? Please check CDC and New Jersey's incoming travel advisory.**
- **Have you been exposed to potentially exposed at your place of work in the past 14 days?**

Atlantic Health Systems launched a COVID-19 public-facing hotline designed to assist anyone who is concerned that they or a loved one may have been exposed to or have symptoms of COVID-19.

The hotline ([862-260-3199](tel:862-260-3199)) operates M – F from 9:00 am – 1 pm and closed on the weekends.

The COVID-19 Nurse Screening Hotline is staffed by trained Atlantic Health System nurses who will triage calls and help guide the next steps in seeking care. Callers with clinical symptoms of concern or travel/exposure concerns will be connected with dedicated AMG physicians to assist in evaluation and triage.

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) we have continued to monitor this dynamic situation on a daily basis. Please be assured that Fellowship Senior Living is taking all the appropriate measures as outlined by the Centers for Disease Management (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), New Jersey Department of Health NJDOH) and local health officials in collaboration with our Medical Director and our Infectious Disease Specialist.

Please check our website for any updates at <https://www.fellowshipseniorliving.org/coronavirus-updates/>. Thank you for all of your efforts to help minimize risk in our community.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian G. Lawrence", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian G. Lawrence
President & CEO