

Goodwin House Public Statement | May 15, 2020

Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

Below, please read a letter that we distributed via email to families and friends of Goodwin House Residents on the evening of Friday, May 15, 2020.

We are inching closer to Memorial Day and the start of summer. This year, perhaps more than ever, we are eager to get outdoors and share time together. You might have heard in the news this week that Virginia Governor Ralph Northam [announced delays to Phase 1](#) of “Forward Virginia” in Northern Virginia. Forward Virginia is the Governor’s plan to safely reopen the state.

While we consider our own path forward, we want to share our update on COVID-19 cases at our communities. Last week, we informed you that an independent living resident at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads had tested positive. We initiated immediate and proactive testing of other residents and staff and discovered four more resident cases and one more staff case. Residents and staff who underwent testing were asked to self-quarantine until results were back, and anyone who tested positive has continued to self-isolate. Further testing this week has revealed no new cases. A brief update is also provided in this week’s Resident Update. We are pleased to report that two GHBC staff members have recovered and will return to work once we confirm two negative tests, according to our protocols.

Our Safe Path Forward

We shared with you last week that senior management and health care leaders are developing Our Safe Path Forward, which is our plan to safely resume activities and reopen amenities at our communities. While we are targeting the week after Memorial Day to move into Phase 1, there are many factors and data we must consider to ensure that various activities can resume safely. An update was provided to residents on May 14 in letters from [GHBC Executive Director Justin Carwile](#) and [GHA Executive Director Barbara D’Agostino](#).

The health and safety of our residents and staff is always our top priority. Our plan focuses on this priority while finding a balance that allows our residents the best quality of life.

Expanded COVID-19 Testing

As part of Our Safe Path Forward, we started testing all residents and staff this week, prioritizing the tests according to the needs of each community. GHBC began wider testing this week with residents in independent living, and will continue on to residents and staff in the rest of the community. GHA will begin testing next week with residents and staff in Health Care (nursing

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care), Assisted Living, and then transition to residents in independent living and staff working in the rest of the community.

The goal is to establish a baseline test of all residents, staff and essential contractors. We are working toward a future that includes ongoing testing for staff, residents who experience symptoms, essential contractors and, ultimately, visitors. The field of senior living is moving in the direction of regular health screening, and eventually most, if not all, organizations will undertake ongoing testing. Goodwin House is grateful to be a leader in this effort so we can better protect our residents and staff.

This expanded testing for everyone is in addition to our continued health screenings upon entry to our building, as well as any steps we take when we learn of a positive case. When we learn of a positive case, we will continue to engage in prompt follow up, undertaking contact tracing for any positive cases and ensuring that any residents and staff members with COVID-19 receive the support they need.

Emotional & Spiritual Support for Residents

Limited social activity is difficult for all of us. We miss seeing friends and family, and that can cause loneliness, anxiety and depression. If your loved one is struggling, we want to remind you of the many resources available. Our Emotional Support Guide lists our resources as well as who can help. If your loved one could use some additional support during this difficult time, please encourage them to reach out to the staff members listed in the guide.

Residents Uplifting Our Community

Residents at both communities bring joy and uplift our spirits in thoughtful ways. GHA resident Jim Bradley entertains other residents and staff with weekly tuba concerts from his balcony. His story was featured on WDVM-TV last week, and includes a cameo from his wife Judy! [See the TV story.](#)

Every Monday and Friday during the daily 3:00 p.m. shift change, GHBC residents organize themselves to express gratitude and cheer for staff members. [We captured them on video this Monday.](#)

The sense of togetherness we share helps us to get through challenging times. And we hope you feel it, too, even if you cannot visit us in person right now. We look forward to the day when our community can be safely reopened and we can see your smiling faces once more. Until then, you can always get in touch with us. Thank you for supporting our infection precaution efforts, and stay safe!

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