

# MARY WADE



*A five star senior community with a tradition of quality healthcare*

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March 3, 2020

Dear Mary Wade families,

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency due to the coronavirus that has been causing respiratory illnesses on international outbreak level. The World Health Organization has officially named the disease COVID-19.

We are required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to develop and implement Emergency Preparedness policies and procedures which are taken from the Hazardous Vulnerability Assessment that we conduct annually. In the Hazardous Vulnerability Assessment, it includes planning for any emerging infectious disease threats such as COVID-19. Members of our leadership team, including our Infection Preventionist, have been reviewing our policies regarding infection disease controls.

In addition to our leadership team reviewing policies' we are monitoring the situation in Connecticut with respect to any reports of COVID-19. In the event that a resident in Mary Wade is suspected of having COVID-19, we have written a policy specifically on how to treat and manage the resident. We are re-educating our staff on washing hands and the use of personal protective equipment such as masks and gowns. We are also inventorying our supply and speaking with our vendors regarding any supply-related concerns.

In addition to COVID-19, it is influenza season. As a general reminder with influenza or any other illness, if you are not feeling well or are displaying any symptoms of cough, fever, runny nose, gastral intestinal or any other symptoms, please refrain from visiting. If you are visiting, and you need to sneeze or cough, please remember to do so into a tissue or sleeve. Please remember to wash your hands before and after you visit.

Let's work together to keep your loved ones safe during this season.

Warm regards,

Stan DeCosta  
Executive Director