



January 6, 2022

Re COVID-19 Update

Dear Residents,

What a time we have found ourselves in!

As many of you know, we now have an **COVID-19 Outbreak at Shalem**. After weathering the pandemic COVID-free so far, this is not what we were hoping and praying for. But given the highly transmissible Omicron variant, this was not unexpected.

Despite the outbreak, we are in a good place to manage this. The vaccinations that so many of our Residents and all our staff have received prevents the worsening of symptoms. Additionally, we have access to rapid testing that will lead to earlier detection and be a contributing force in getting rid of COVID-19 at Shalem.

To further help stop the spread we need your help:

- If you are feeling unwell, please stay in your suite!
- If you are feeling unwell or have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19, please call the front desk and we will arrange to administer a rapid COVID test.

Additionally, we have temporarily implemented a few additional protocols we would like to remind Residents of:

- Dine-in service has temporarily been suspended. All meals will be delivered to Resident's suites.
- Please wear masks at all times when outside of your suite. If needed, masks are available at the front desk.

- Most Resident activities have been suspended with the exception of chapel and exercise. These activities will continue under revised protocols due to the direct physical and spiritual benefit to Residents as well the ability of staff to be present and oversee these activities.
- Common areas such as the café and games room have been closed for now to limit social gatherings where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Please feel free to continue small group card games and other Resident run activities provided that all those participating do not have any symptoms. Please wear masks as much as possible and remember your hand hygiene and sanitization!

These temporary measures will be reviewed regularly and we hope we will be able to resume these activities and services soon!

Thank you for your prayers, understanding and patience as these decisions are made and implemented. As COVID-19 has impacted staff as well, this creates additional pressure and strain on our staffing capacities. Please pray that both our staff and Residents remain healthy and those who do acquire the virus recover quickly!

'Fear not, for I am with you;

be not dismayed, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you,

I will help you,

I will uphold you with my righteous hand'

Isaiah 41:10



Dorothy de Vuyst
Executive Director