



Cleveland, Monday, December 28th, 2020

Family Members

RE: THIRTY-THIRD WALES COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Family Members,

I am pleased to advise that the results from the second round of COVID-19 testing for Norton 1 residents and employees were all negative and the quarantine was lifted on Christmas day. Numerous employees have already received their first COVID-19 vaccine, and no one has had side effects other than a sore arm. Residents living in our long-term care who gave consent, will be immunized on Monday, January 11th, 2021.

No one ended 2019 thinking what we need in 2020 is more "social isolation." No one put on their New Year's resolution lists that they want to spend more time staring at screens. No one planned to spend less time with family or hesitate to hug relatives or friends. No one planned to avoid social gatherings or cancel their vacations. But it all happened.

I hope this pandemic, while tragic, will draw us closer together. As I write this, we are at a new all-time high in viral infections. We are experiencing a more subdued holiday season than any of us remember. As the vaccines begin to alleviate this terrible outbreak, my passionate hope for the future are as follows: I believe we will all shortly appreciate being in each other's company a bit more; I think we will all find visiting friends and family more enjoyable than we remember; We will all be a bit more excited to travel and vacation in faraway places; We will go back to cheering for our children at school shows and sporting events; We will all appreciate hugs with family and handshakes with colleagues a bit more. All these things we took for granted only a year ago have been taken from us this year, and I believe we will appreciate them more when they are returned to us.

We look forward to 2021 as the Wales Home will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. As a private not for profit organization, we are committed to investing in the community, not just today, but for generations to come. We look forward to providing outstanding care and services in the next 100 years, and beyond.

As we look forward to a brighter new year, I would like to thank our healthcare providers and all essential team members that keep our healthcare system going. Stay safe and healthy and treasure those around you.

Warmest regards,

Brendalee Piironen Executive Director

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