June 1, 2020

To Our Residents and Family Members,

We want to take this opportunity to update you about measures being taken to enhance the safety and wellbeing of those we are privileged to serve. As you are undoubtedly aware, nursing home residents and patients are at risk for infection from the COVID-19 virus due to the vulnerable nature of the population and inherent risk of congregate living. Through previous communication, we have detailed several steps Altercare has in place to mitigate the risk of infection in our communities. One of the most important measures in identifying and controlling the spread of this virus is with facility testing.

Recently, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced his plans to conduct COVID testing of staff and residents at all Ohio nursing homes. The state's strategy includes deploying fourteen Congregate Care Unified Response Teams each comprised of local medical professionals from the Ohio National Guard.

What We Know

Beginning the week of May 24th, the deployed Teams will work collaboratively with nursing home staff to test all nursing home staff. Resident testing will be conducted based on clinical review and individual assessments. The initial focus will be placed on facilities who already have confirmed COVID-19 cases. This effort will allow for more aggressive identification of coronavirus infections and ultimately will contribute to decreasing the spread of this virus. The plan is for staff in all facilities to have a baseline test. It is our understanding that they hope to have the baseline testing done in the next couple of weeks.

As we work to cooperate with this state wide effort, we want to assure you that residents and family members will be well informed throughout this process when testing begins. As soon as more detail is made available to our team, we will share that information with you.

Should you have questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to your Executive Director or our Care Line at 1.800.464.0157.

Sincerely,
Gregory R. Colaner
President