

# Youville House/Youville Place

## Assisted Living Residences

To: Residents & Families

From: Nicole Breslin, CEO

Date: May 21, 2020

Re: Update

Youville House continues to monitor the Department of Public Health COVID data, Governor Baker's reopening of Massachusetts plan and regulations from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. We want to keep you all informed and give you some key information:

### **Current COVID-19 Status:**

~ Currently, Youville House has no residents or staff diagnosed with COVID-19. We have one resident in quarantine who returned from a skilled nursing center who is in quarantine as a precaution. This resident is currently negative for COVID-19 and will soon be out of quarantine.

~ Although we are currently celebrating our current status, we also realize that this virus can change quickly and is still very much alive in the greater community.

### **Executive Office of Elder Affairs:**

~ Youville is regulated by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA). Youville cannot consider lifting visitor restrictions until EOEA allows this. The lift on the stay at home order does not change our no visitor policy at this time. We must follow EOEA regulations.

### **Cambridge COVID Taskforce:**

~ The Cambridge COVID Taskforce has informed us that they are beginning to pull back. They are now in surveillance mode and will not be doing any further testing at this time.

~ We have all been wondering about the antibody testing that was performed on staff and residents. Today, we received an update that they are not complete yet. There have been mixed messages on these results. The antibody testing was for a Federal Study and not meant to be for individual results. We are still not clear if we will receive individual results or results of the group study. We apologize for the frustration this has caused but it is completely out of our control. Stay tuned!

## **Reopening Massachusetts- Governor Baker**

**<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>:**

- “ Gov. Baker announced on May 18th a phased reopening plan to methodically allow business, services and activities to resume, while avoiding a resurgence of COVID-19 that could overwhelm our healthcare system and erase the progress we've made so far.
- “ Each phase will last a minimum of three weeks and could last longer before moving to the next phase.
- “ Phase 1 did include lifting the stay at home order but continues to urge everyone over the age of 65 who are the most vulnerable to continue to stay home.
- “ Phase 1 included opening up hair salons and places of worship and Youville has received lots of inquiries of what that means for Youville. Here are some important facts to understand how this impacts Youville:
  - o At this time, it is not possible for priests to offer mass at Youville. Under the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, we must still continue to limit visitors so priests are not yet allowed.
  - o Phase 1 guidelines are geared toward commercial/public salons. In our salon setting we would need more of what is currently said to be allowed during Phase 2 or 3. Our stylist John is very eager to be back in the salon and PS Salon is currently taking all the safety steps necessary to make the salon in our community a safe one. We believe the salon will open sometime toward the end of June/beginning of July.

## **Youville Re-Opening Plan:**

- “ Youville is working on a very detailed re-opening plan that will ensure safety for all. However, the CDC continues to recommend that communal dining and group activities for those 65 and older be suspended. We will have a "re-opening" phased plan ready for when it is deemed safe for assisted livings to do so.
- “ We will be beginning to roll out themed carts to bring some joy to our residents. Programs will have a theme each week and will safely push a cart along each floor for happy hour. We will be kicking off Memorial Day week with alcoholic and non-alcoholic frozen drinks. Residents will open their door and a staff member will hand them a drink while in full PPE and changing gloves between each resident. If residents do not want to participate, they can simply keep their door closed.
- “ Youville designed a remote learning schedule that was launched last week. This will continue and will be distributed weekly.
- “ Program staff also continue to check in with residents weekly to see how they can assist them in keeping them engaged by providing new books, puzzles, etc.
- “ As soon as we are able to open our salon, we will only allow one resident in the

salon at a time.

**Safety/Wellbeing:**

“ Safety has and will continue to be our number one priority. Our residents are the most vulnerable to this vicious virus. Cleaning hands, sanitizing, screening at the door and universal masking will continue for the foreseeable future.

“ We are concerned about the negative impacts of isolation and realize that there are consequences to isolation for long periods of time. We do encourage residents to get some fresh air on the beautiful days ahead. Please wear a mask and do not touch your face while outside. Wash your hands immediately when you return to your apartment. Families can have quick visits with their loved ones outside of our building, 6 feet apart with masks on.

**We appreciate the cooperation of all our residents and families during these difficult times. We are in this together and cannot thank you enough.**

Nicole Breslin, CEO