

March 2, 2020

Dear Residents and Employees of Sinai Residences:

As coverage of the coronavirus outbreak in China and subsequent positive cases in the United States continues, we are fielding an increasing number of questions from anxious residents and resident's families. Please know that, as we do in all health-related cases, we are working closely together and receiving additional guidance from the LCS Risk Management and Health Services Clinical teams, the Palm Beach County Health Department, the Florida Department of Health (FDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This is a rapidly changing situation, and one which we are monitoring closely.

According to the CDC, most people get infected with viruses in the coronavirus family at some point in their lives. The 2019 novel strain at the center of the current issue is a new one and has a more severe impact in terms of respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. The CDC is still studying how the virus spreads, though it is thought at this point to be spread much like the flu.

Practicing good hygiene can help to limit the spread of viruses in our community. The virus may live on surfaces such as countertops and doorknobs, so as a safeguard, housekeeping employees will continue to clean highly trafficked areas.

The current recommended precautions to avoid exposure to the virus are the same precautions you would take to avoid the flu. To keep our community safe:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick until you have been fever- free without the use of fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours.
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash; if tissues aren't available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 but there is a vaccine for seasonal influenza which is recommended for all persons over the age of 6 months.

Sinai Residences operations is currently focused on these key areas to remain prepared:

- Reinforce hygiene efforts
- Educate staff, residents and visitors on developments with COVID-19
- Confirm supply levels of key items such as gowns and masks
- Evaluating possible quarantine measures that could be implemented at our community including HVAC systems, laundry and food service
- Staffing if in a lockdown situation
- Patient screening protocols
- Patient confidentiality policies
- Sick and family leave policies
- Emergency food and supply levels
- Staying in contact with local and state health department

We will be continuing receiving updates and information from our LCS resources and our partnerships with public health experts and updating you when new relevant information is available.

Thank you for your cooperation to keep our community healthy.

Sincerely,

**Chris Newport** 

**Executive Director**