

LINDEN HOUSE

ASSISTED LIVING AT BRANCLANDS



Update –Thursday, April 2, 2020

Linden House Residents, Families and Friends,

We are continuing to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and measures recommended by federal, state and local agencies, including CDC, CMS, Virginia Department of Health, Department of Social Services, and Albemarle County, to prevent transmission of the virus.

We do not have any COVID-19 diagnoses at the community; however, several senior living communities in Charlottesville have now confirmed at least one resident with COVID-19. While we continue to limit virus exposure through visitor restrictions and screening procedures for essential staff and caregivers, we have decided that additional measures are now appropriate.

With that in mind, in addition to measures outlined in previous updates, the following procedures have been initiated this week:

- Twice daily formal resident monitoring for any presence of new respiratory symptoms.
- Newly admitted residents who pass screening criteria are requested to self-isolate in their apartments for the first 14 days of admission and to wear a mask in the presence of staff as a precautionary measure.
- A contingency plan has been developed to isolate residents who display multiple signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or are confirmed with the virus. They will be transferred to a secure isolation unit in an unoccupied 8-bedroom neighborhood of The Gardens - as recommended by CDC. This plan, which means admissions to The Gardens are curtailed, is intended to protect other residents while permitting the quarantined resident to isolate in place until tested negative for the virus. The unit will be staffed with dedicated employees assigned exclusively to these residents 24 hours a day.
- In addition to the entry screening process, employees and contracted staff who work in another healthcare facility are required to wear a mask while at Linden House. These persons include staffing agency wellness workers, hospice, home health, rehabilitation therapists, private duty aides and companions, PACE, physicians and nurse practitioners, and Linden House staff who work in other communities.
- Residents are asked to continue to use social distancing in our community when leaving apartments but are now strongly encouraged to protect themselves by staying in their apartments unless using community spaces (hallways and outdoor gardens and terraces) for exercise and fresh air. Furthermore, we recommend discontinuing all outings from Linden House and observe Governor Northam's "Stay at home" executive order. If you need something from a store, please contact the front desk or family members to assist with procurement. This is intended to reduce your opportunities for exposure to the virus for yourself and the possibility of bringing the virus back to the community where others may be exposed.

LINDEN HOUSE

ASSISTED LIVING AT BRANCLANDS



Please welcome our new Linden House Medical Director, Dr. Marisa Christiansen. Dr. Christiansen is a 2001 UVA School of Medicine graduate and board certified geriatrician. She received the 2015 *Best Bedside Manner* award for Charlottesville/Shenandoah from Our Health magazine. She has an independent practice in Ivy and will visit the community weekly to oversee and guide our practices and procedures. She is also available for onsite appointments as a primary care physician for residents who would like to consult her. Dr. Christiansen and Jenny Furlow, Nurse Practitioner, will work together to serve the needs of Linden House and residents.

We know that living with these additional limitations may pose more challenges and inconvenience and we thank you for your continued understanding and compliance. We are committed to our residents' wellness and protection.

Thank you for your cooperation and the trust you have placed in us. These restrictions will be removed as soon as we are told it is safe to do so.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristin Lovett
Executive Director