



July 2020 Family Newsletter

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On June 4, 2020, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals released guidance for a three-phased approach to easing visitation restrictions in long-term care communities. We hoped to move to Phase 2 on June 19.

Due to state regulations within these guidelines Valley View Community, along with most other facilities, was unable to move on to Phase 2 of reopening. The state currently wants to require facilities to change to a new PPE face mask for every resident interaction. This has never been the standard of care for us. They call this "conventional capacity" for PPE use to promote safety. State Trade Associations strongly argued this level is impossible for nursing facilities to meet. Valley View has ample supply of PPE for "contingency use" and has been operating successfully within this status during the pandemic. But our supply will not meet the requirement of conventional use (requiring a new PPE face mask for every resident interaction).

Baseline testing has been completed through the State Hygienic Lab and we are happy to announce that all tests were negative. We continue to monitor residents and staff for symptoms of illness, including fever.

We agree that safety is a key priority, but also recognize that the standard they have set seems unobtainable to move to re-opening for family visits. We believe the residents have rights and human needs for visitation.

If you want to share your opinion on the residents' rights to visitation and that the restrictions as currently expected are unreasonable and unnecessary, contact the Governor's office. Phone: 515-281-5211 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or send a letter: Office of Governor Kim Reynolds; Iowa State Capitol; 1007 East Grand Avenue; Des Moines, IA 50319.

We realize this is not the information you were hoping for. We will keep you updated and informed as we work through any additional information or changes.

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Pictured: Pastor Cathy Belles, Pastor Chris Martin, Deb Haugen, and Rae Gallmeyer

Thank you to the Greene Presbyterian Church and Villmar Lutheran Church for funds to upgrade our Wi-Fi access points.