

Their full statements

Fairmount

Following universal COVID-19 testing of our residents, Fairmount Homes experienced several positive COVID-19 cases on an isolated floor in our healthcare unit. Most of these residents are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms and we expect them to recover. Unfortunately, six of our residents have passed away from complications related to COVID-19. The entire Fairmount team remains deeply saddened by the loss of these residents, and we have expressed our sincere remorse to the residents' families. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Fairmount has been following the CDC's recommended protocols and control measures since first learning of the novel coronavirus. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has completed an on-site assessment and verified that our infectious control procedures to limit the transmission of COVID-19 are appropriate. On a regular basis, our team has been working closely with experts in infectious disease and epidemiology to confirm that we are doing all that we can.

As we have seen in long-term care facilities across the country, despite adherence to local, state, and federal guidance to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the virus is insidious and can disproportionately impact the vulnerable population we serve. We intend to continue to stay in close contact with our state health department, and infectious disease experts to do all that we can to limit and manage the spread of exposure. Resident safety has been and will continue to be our top priority. We will also continue to update our website regarding these developments when we have material information that we can share.

Willow Valley

Willow Valley Communities Unwavering in Resolve to Mitigate COVID-19 Remains Steadfast in Commitment to Residents, Families

Lancaster, PA – "Willow Valley Communities is unrelenting in its commitment to residents and their families in the fight against COVID-19," said John G. Swanson, CEO of Willow Valley Living, the management company for Willow Valley Communities.

"Any death brought about by COVID-19 is a tragedy and we share in the families' deep sorrow and mourn the loss of our residents," he added. "Although our hearts are heavy, Willow Valley Communities remains steadfast in our pledge to continue to protect our residents against this virus. Our dedicated, compassionate teams are on the front lines aggressively applying established guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

Since the advent of COVID-19, the premier 55-plus senior living community in Lancaster, PA has adhered to, and often gone beyond, recommendations and guidance issued and updated frequently by recognized government and health authorities such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Pennsylvania, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and others to protect our residents and Team members. The WHO declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic on March 11; Willow Valley Communities began putting protocols in place in response to the threat as early as February 2020.

Members of a Willow Valley Communities' COVID-19 Response Team, formed early this year, have met frequently to examine ways to improve our containment of COVID-19. The team comprises members of the Willow Valley Communities' Infection Control Committee (including expertise and advisement from Lancaster General Hospital/Penn Medicine), the organization's Medical Director, Willow Valley Communities' senior leadership, and applicable department heads. The Response Team actively and continuously reviews procedures and policies and modifies them as needed. These include daily safety protocols, testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), team education, best practices, restriction of staff movement, and cleaning and sanitation actions.

As part of its aggressive efforts to mitigate the risk of further COVID-19 spread, Willow Valley Communities has researched and purchased hi-tech sanitation equipment intended to help kill or detect signs of the virus. Recent purchases include SAM 400 Portable Air Disinfection Devices, Clorox Total 360 System Electrostatic Sprayers, UV Sterilizer Cabinets, UV Light Sanitizer Wands, FLIR Handheld Thermal Cameras for screening, and Accushield Sign-In Kiosks for screening at concierge desks.

A July 22, 2020 unannounced survey visit by The Pennsylvania Department of Health to Willow Valley Communities' skilled care communities, Lakeside and The Glen, identified zero deficiencies, meaning that state inspectors found that all established and mandated policies, procedures, and protocols were being followed. Inspectors spoke highly of the team's performance and the prevention measures in place. At the conclusion of their visit, the state inspectors said they were not able to offer any constructive recommendations for improvement to Willow Valley Communities beyond our measures already in place.

All of the COVID-19 attributed deaths at Willow Valley Communities have occurred in the organization's skilled care communities, where residents largely have pre-existing, underlying health conditions. Among Lancaster County long term care facilities that have reported COVID-19 attributed deaths, Willow Valley Communities has had the least, by a significant margin, as a percentage of the resident population in those facilities.

Those who have passed away at Willow Valley Communities were older, medically compromised residents with comorbidities. In some of these cases, COVID-19 was the primary cause of their death as determined by the county coroner. For others, COVID-19 was listed as a secondary cause of death. The medical community has acknowledged that comorbidities and age increase the risk of death from COVID-19. The average age of the Willow Valley Communities residents who passed away is 92 years.

Swanson says he is encouraged by the fact that most residents who tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered from their illness. As of August 6, among the 2,400 residents at Willow Valley Communities, there are 10 active cases of COVID-19.

Over its 35 years history, Willow Valley Communities has earned a widely known tradition of trust and excellence within Lancaster County and across the nation. It has been recognized many times by organizations both within and outside of the senior living industry for its premier lifestyle and care. In addition to the zero deficiency score from the unannounced July 22, 2020 visit, PA Department of Health inspections for all of 2019 and 2020 to-date have likewise resulted in zero deficiencies.

Willow Valley Communities has been and continues to be one of the most successful Lancaster County senior living communities in fighting COVID-19. The first case of COVID-was diagnosed in Lancaster County on March 18, and the first death in a Lancaster County nursing home was reported March 30. The first passing of a Willow Valley Communities resident attributed to COVID-19 was July 14.

Swanson is further encouraged by these statistics, and also by the positive comments received from PA Department of Health inspectors during their recent unannounced visit. He is also gratified that so many residents and their families have reached out to Willow Valley Communities to offer praise and gratitude for the community's handling of the pandemic. "Praise and kudos to the administrators and team members in handling the COVID-19 situation," said one resident.