



April 21, 2020

Dear St. John's Meadows and Brickstone by St. John's Residents,

A few days have passed since my last communication and it is time to bring everyone up to speed with the latest information concerning our community. Since my last memo there have been concerns, suggestions, needed clarifications, and a bright spot to share.

First, the good news--Tony and his wife Michelle had their baby girl on Monday, April 20. Emma Marie is a healthy beautiful baby girl. Mom and Dad are doing well and are ready to tackle the joys of parenthood. We wish them all the best for their precious new gift from God!

Wear the mask or don't wear the mask--that is the question. Because the COVID virus has reared its ugly head, there have been many opinions, suggestions, and contradictions related to the wearing of the mask. Here is my latest attempt to clarify the guidelines: Governor Cuomo declared several days ago that all New Yorkers must wear a mask or scarf to cover their face when in public places. Consequently, I have been asked the question "are the common areas in our communities considered public spaces?" Technically, no, they are not, because we are currently not open to the public. However, they are considered common areas and they need to be treated in the same manner as public spaces. What are the community common spaces I am referencing? They are lobbies, multipurpose rooms, fitness rooms, dining rooms, etc. In other words, the common areas are any areas that are located outside of your apartment. A mask or scarf must be worn at all times when you are in the common spaces of St. John's Meadows and Brickstone by St. John's.

While the mask is uncomfortable for some, this method of reducing the transfer of the virus has been determined to be effective by the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Please keep in mind the mask is **not** the only measure to protect you. Frequent hand washing and sanitizing, social distancing, limited trips to grocery stores, and most of all your common sense, have also been proven as effective preventions against COVID-19. The following is an excerpt from *Live Science* referencing the Centers for Disease Control comments from April 3.

As more knowledge about the virus has come to light, it became apparent that asymptomatic people could be spreading the virus. Up to 25% of people with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, the CDC found. Moreover, a new small study found that COVID-19 may be most infectious when symptoms are mildest, meaning that people may be spreading the virus before realizing they have it.

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"This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity — for example, speaking, coughing or sneezing — even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms," the CDC said in a news statement today. "In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain."

Please protect yourself and others and wear a mask in the common areas.

I would like to share a word about our emotional health and need for socialization. During this time, many of us have been under self-quarantine, have restricted our visits to the outside world, and have had limited contact with family and friends. Needless to say, this places a significant hardship on our emotional well-being.

What options are available to us until the social distancing policies are reduced?

1. We can provide you the opportunity for FaceTime with your families using electronic devices available to you by loan. Contact the Social Recreation Department for assistance. All residents are welcome to walk the campus outdoors and walk the community indoors.
2. All residents are able to use the fitness centers if you wear a mask and clean the equipment before and after each use with the sanitizer provided. We also ask that no more than two people use the fitness room at one time. The Pool will remain closed until further notice.
3. You may meet with your neighbors in your apartment, **if they are symptom free, you maintain a social distance of 6 feet, wear a mask, allow no more than three other guests at one time, and before entering and apply hand sanitizer before leaving.** Your common sense is your best method of protection. When in doubt, distance yourself.

As the COVID-19 risk of infection abates, we will begin to make calculated decisions on how to reopen the amenities of the community. When will we begin this planning? I will follow the New York State Department of Health recommendations for high risk community environments. Those restrictions are in place until May 15, at which time they may be modified. Please keep in mind this date could be altered based on the rate of new cases locally and statewide and the potential impact to our Meadows-Brickstone community.

I have received numerous calls related to the attention the media has been giving St. John's Home. I will direct all related questions to the St. John's web site where the most recent information is posted on our COVID-19 Updates web page at: <https://www.stjohnsliving.org/important-covid-19-updates/>

I have received questions about the risk of cross-contamination when a staff member who typically works at St. John's Meadows or Brickstone by St. John's takes a shift at St. John's Home and then returns to work here. Recently, there have been 3 staff members who were on temporary assignment to the Home to fill gaps in the laundry department. During that time, there was no direct contact with any resident on any floor. Each day, each employee was thoroughly screened for any symptoms of COVID-19 here and at the Home. Going forward, there will no longer be a need for staff members from St. John's Meadows or Brickstone by St. John's to report to St. John's Home as those positions are now filled. Please call me if you have any further concerns related to our shared services between St. John's Home and St. John's Meadows or Brickstone by St. John's.

As indicated in the below listed message from Lifespan, scams are alive and well. **DO NOT REPLY TO ANYONE WHO CONTACTS YOU CLAIMING TO REPRESENT A COVID-19 RELATED AGENCY.**

An update from Life Span on COVID-19

Scammers are having a field day.

April 20, 2020

Please beware!

The latest scam plays off the notion of contact tracing.

CURES AND VACCINES – you may receive a text message, email or phone call offering a breakthrough cure or vaccine. You will be required to pay in advance, and you will receive nothing.

COVID-19 supplies – scammers are advertising protective equipment like masks, face shields, gloves and other supplies. Scammers will try to get your credit card or other personal information, and you will receive nothing.

FAKE EMAILS - Scammers are sending emails that make you think you are dealing with a government agency, using addresses that differ slightly. A real email from the government will end in “.gov”, not “.com” or “.org”.

FAKE CHARITIES - Check any charity, business or person requesting payments or donations in cash, wire transfer, gift card, or through the mail. NEVER send money through these channels.

PHISHING FOR PATIENT INFO - Scammers are posing as medical providers asking for patient information for COVID-19 testing, then using your information to create fraudulent medical bills.

Scammers have launched schemes based on the federal stimulus payments.

- *The government will not ask you to verify your personal information.*

Do not give out your bank account, credit card, or other information. If you receive an unsolicited call about the payment, hang up.

- *Texts, emails, calls, or social media messages saying you can get your money faster are fake. You will receive your payment when the U.S. government sends it to you. No sooner.*

- *Do not trust caller ID. You may receive phone calls that seem to be from the government. These phone calls are 100% fake. Do not answer them.*

- *Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using robot calls to tell you they can get your payment faster.*

Please call Lifespan at 585-244-8400 with any questions.

In closing, these will continue to be very trying times. As we watch the news we see firsthand the devastation our nation and its people are enduring. We receive daily updates from our government and medical professionals indicating the countless times this unpredictable disease changes course. Making informed decisions for our health and safety is confusing at times. Our spirits are wearing thin. However, this much I do know—each day that passes is a day closer to a vaccine and there will be better days ahead. I appreciate all of your patience and words of encouragement—they are very helpful for the team’s

morale. Respectfully, I ask that we all continue to remain vigilant for our health, continue to be kind to each other, keep an eye on our neighbors, and look for reasons to be grateful.

Stay Safe, Stay Strong, and Stay Positive!

With the deepest respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Bartlett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Bartlett