

June 20, 2020

Dear Elders, Families and Friends of MSS,

We have been notified that an elder from the Azalea Independent Living building at Aldersgate Retirement Community has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The elder is quarantined and is receiving appropriate care. We have notified public health officials and are working with the office of the State Epidemiologist.

We are currently contacting all people who may have interacted with this elder to make them aware of the situation. Please know that we have followed, and will continue to follow, all guidance set forth by state and federal officials for privacy, elder care, employee safety, and efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Our team members are following all recommendations provided by the CDC and the Mississippi State Department of Health. Prior to each shift, staff are required to wash their hands, take their temperature, wear a mask and answer a series of questions to ensure they are not exhibiting any known COVID-19 symptoms. We continue to conduct a rigorous sanitation regimen and have increased the daily volume of cleaning we perform. In addition, we are asking all elders who are moving about the campus to wear face masks and to practice social distancing.

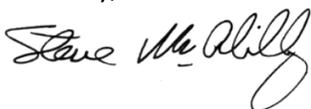
“Reopening” our campus is not an easy task. The virus is still very active, and we remain under threat of its deadly contagion. That is why it is critical that we take the utmost care to reopen in the safest way possible. We cannot let our guard down. Mississippi is still seeing very large numbers of infections diagnosed each day and we must remain vigilant in order to prevent further infection at Aldersgate. And while we are working to reopen some dining and small group gatherings within the buildings to allow neighbors to enjoy some socialization and community, we must be mindful that job one is still to protect the elders.

We cannot succeed in opening up in a cautious way without your help. If you come and go out into the community, you not only put yourself at risk, but you put everyone who lives and works on our campus at risk. If you live in the community and visit our campus you put everyone who lives and works on our campus at risk.

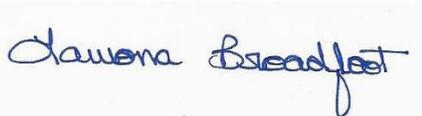
For these reasons, we ask that all elders continue to shelter in place as much as possible. We have implemented many programs that will allow residents to obtain things from the outside without endangering themselves or others. As we begin to open-up social gatherings and the common areas on our campus, access to these gatherings will be restricted to those elders who have not been out in the broader community, in order to protect those living on our campus who wish to remain in a more protected environment.

In order to help provide our family and staff members with regular updates, we have created two ways to access campus COVID-19 updates. You can access campus specific updates by going to mss.org/Aldersgate and clicking on the COVID-19 Update Button. In addition, you can call this number, 662-844-8977 Ext. 212, and updates will be recorded there for you to listen to. We hope this helps keep you well informed. As always, you can reach out to our administrative office at Aldersgate for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Steve McAlilly
President/CEO



Lawona Broadfoot
Aldersgate Executive Director

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgement. ~ 2 Timothy 1:7