



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

What Does It Take To Reopen a Country? Part 2...

Today, we'll dive briefly into retail-related infrastructure considerations as the State of North Carolina starts reopening businesses and other services this Friday at 5 PM under Governor Roy Cooper's Phase 1 plan.

First, what do we mean by retail-related infrastructure? Opening the doors to customers is certainly a major step and, in some cases, an intimidating one given the risks, but other hurdles may also be lurking.

Let's take restaurants, for example, which in North Carolina are still at least two weeks away from being permitted to offer dine-in services. Securing supplies of meat and other foods as a result of shortages due to COVID-19 may make it challenging for some restaurants to open comfortably. Regular supply outlets may be located in other states and in areas that are not yet ready to "reopen," and worker shortages at processing facilities gripped by virus outbreaks have temporarily hindered supplies. Even Wendy's is asking, "Where's the beef?" as it announced that more than 20% of its stores nationwide have no beef for its fresh hamburgers!

And how many restaurants have the space and the profit margin to manage successfully when they cannot operate above 50% capacity and are required to keep diners at a 6-foot or greater distance apart? The physical design of many restaurants makes this a requirement that some establishments may simply not be able to meet. Restaurant owners will need these next two weeks just to figure out how to have a successful reopening.

Retail businesses in general will be required to maintain effective, regular disinfecting procedures. These days it's hit or miss as to whether sanitizing agents will be available in sufficient quantities to satisfy the new guidelines. And they also can only operate at 50% capacity and with required social distancing. What does that mean for a small business with limited space? We wish these businesses nothing but success as they navigate an unknown future, and we should cheer them on as they tackle these very difficult questions.

And what about the availability of employees? Unemployment claims in North Carolina are now over 1 million. With school buildings closed until August, how many former employees will actually return to the workforce when they have school-age children at home? And will businesses feel compelled to scale back their pre-*Stay-At Home Order* payrolls in order to keep overhead down and because of all the continued uncertainty around us?

All these questions are meant to provide food for thought. We really do not know at this point how the effort to “re-open” North Carolina and the country will go. Suffice to say, unanticipated challenges will arise, but hopefully, unexpected opportunities will also come to light that can serve as best practices for any business or other community service eager to serve its customer or client base.

HELPFUL INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Atrium Senior Care Meeting for Pines’ Residents via Zoom (Thursday, May 14 at 10:00 AM)

Residents and their family members are invited to attend a virtual meeting via Zoom with our *Senior Care* clinicians, Dr. Deanna Mangieri and Kirsten Presby, N.P. on Thursday morning, May 14 at 10:00 AM. They will first give a brief talk on “Nurturing Your Mental Health During COVID-19,” then answer your questions on general health issues and on the advantages of being a Senior Care at The Pines patient.



You must sign-up for this meeting by emailing Rebecca at the Reception Desk:

rjohnson@thepinesatdavidson.org. **by Wednesday, May 13 at 12:00 noon.** Once you have signed up, you will be emailed the meeting link to attend (which you will simply click on the day of the meeting.) The meeting will be limited to 40 minutes, per Zoom’s policy. **In order to most efficiently use our meeting time, we ask that all questions for Dr. Mangieri and Kirsten Presby be pre-submitted.** Please also email your questions to Rebecca at the Reception Desk: rjohnson@thepinesatdavidson.org. **by Wednesday, May 13 at 12:00 noon.** For more information about Senior Care at The Pines, click here: [Brochure](#).

Summer Travel

With the summer months on the near horizon, some residents have been asking whether they can start planning vacation travel off campus. The Pines is studying closely CDC, state and other health care authority recommendations related to senior communities and these requests. As you may remember, the *modified* North Carolina *Stay at Home Order* (which begins Friday, May 8th), states that during all three phases of this Order, “rigorous restrictions currently in place at nursing homes and other group living communities should remain active.” Please know that The Pines is carefully considering what modifications to its safety restrictions

and guidelines - *if any* - could be made in the coming months, and we will promptly communicate any such modifications to residents when these have been determined.

Spotted on our Campus



Dick Hills shares a photo (on left) of a deer visiting our grounds last week.

This morning, Bill Reinke captured with his camera flowers (shown right) on resident Jackie Rushing's patio.



Housekeeping

A resident asked why housekeeping is currently offered every two weeks rather than weekly. There are two reasons for the temporarily modified housekeeping schedule. First, the housekeeping staff has been redeployed not only to clean "high-touch" common areas (handrails, laundry rooms, elevators) with greater frequency, but they have also taken on other, additional duties to help keep residents safer from COVID-19: they are engaged in the daily sorting and distribution of internal and external mail, newspapers and packages, all of which are quite time-intensive.

Secondly, limiting potential resident exposure to COVID-19 is the highest priority, and a bi-weekly schedule (every 14 days) helps to diminish the exposure a resident would have to a staff member who might unknowingly be an asymptomatic carrier. While we screen staff daily when they come to work (temperatures taken and symptom questionnaires completed), there may be occasions when a staff member does not show symptoms even when they are infected with the virus, and contagious. Having housekeeping visits occur less frequently reduces the occasions residents could possibly be exposed to this virus.

Sunshine Songs

Bill Dean, the son of resident Gordon Johnson, wanted to be sure the community was aware of this online intergenerational concert series meant for audiences, like seniors, who are not active on social media: [Sunshine Songs](#). A recent May 2nd Sunshine Songs concert is available to watch on this site. It features students from across the country who share videos of the performances they were not able to give in school productions this year due to the ongoing pandemic. Several older adults also share their comments about this concert series. Thank you, Bill, for sharing this wonderful way for individuals of all generations to enjoy the talent and enthusiasm of so many youths. *Seniorly*, an online senior living resource site, provided the technical and creative live-streaming expertise.

Tony Award winner Laura Benanti, who created #Sunshine Songs in March, says in *Playbill Magazine*, “I was talking to my mom [vocal coach Linda Benanti], and she shared how disappointed her students were that their school musicals were canceled due to COVID-19. These shows bring entire towns together in celebration of their talented young people, and I wanted to provide a platform for them to be seen and celebrated!”



Wearing Masks

It's great to see all the terrific hand sewn masks that residents are wearing! We want to remind the whole community to wear cloth masks when walking in common areas, such as the corridors, community center and other settings where one could encounter other individuals. Masks do not have to be worn outside but the use of masks is encouraged, especially if residents are meeting/sitting with others (even at a safe distance). It is important to continue to observe social distancing and proper hand washing, in addition to wearing your mask.

Closing Images



Resident Ken Pederson shares these two delightful images, which capture another recent 'bird moment' on their balcony. He believes this might be a 'chipping sparrow', but perhaps someone at The Pines who is 'more ornithologically aware' might suggest otherwise? He also observes, “It's pretty obvious that it didn't fancy being photographed while eating. Don't we all.”