



Covenant Living Special Update **Terri Cunliffe / April 17, 2020**

Hello, I'm Terri Cunliffe, President and CEO of Covenant Living.

The coronavirus continues to be the top news story, and it has certainly changed the way we go about our daily lives. But it is truly heartwarming to see how medical professionals have become real-life superheroes, on the front lines, caring for individuals and battling the virus in hospitals and health care centers across the country. And it is encouraging to hear the many recovery stories at our communities and elsewhere.

Please continue to pray for the staff and residents at all of our communities. At this point, seven of our communities have been impacted by the coronavirus. Most have experienced only a handful of cases, with the exception of the one community I mentioned last week. And if you live in one of the communities that has not yet been impacted, be assured that you will be notified in writing if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your community.

I understand that the current situation creates concern and anxiety ... and receiving notice of a new case in your community brings up lots of question. ... Who are they? ... Where do they live? ... I get it.

Just a month ago, we were notified of coronavirus cases in our apartment building. We weren't told where in the building the individuals lived, but ever since ... as I navigate my building, to and from the garage, down the hall to the garbage chute or to the mailroom ... I treat every door handle, every handrail, and every common-area surface, as if it were covered with coronavirus. And as soon as I reach my apartment, I immediately wash my hands ... even before taking off my coat or my backpack. When I head to my car, I spray my hands with hand sanitizer between the last door and getting to my car. So, yes, I may have become a bit of a "germaphobe." Also, why is it the second I touch a door handle, my face begins to itch or my eyes start watering ... every single time!

Residents, when leaving your home, even within your building, you might consider wearing a homemade mask, a bandana, or a non-medical mask. If you have a cold ... if you are coughing or sneezing ... stay in your apartment, but if you must leave, remember to cover your face to avoid spreading germs to others. Whenever possible, avoid touching unnecessary surfaces outside of your home. Use automatic doors, and keep your hands in your pockets. Ride the elevator alone ... or with your spouse ... and then sanitize your hands after touching elevator buttons. When you return to home, regardless of where you were, wash your hands with warm water and soap. And don't forget to wash your assistive devices ... like your canes and walkers ... frequently, and please, don't forget to clean your phones!

I know this has been a challenging season for our residents and staff. You fear getting the virus. Our staff fear bringing it home to their families. But in spite of that, this challenge has brought out the best in our residents and staff.

You have survived the impossible ... Easter at home!

For many of you, it was the first time you didn't go to church on Easter morning, host an Easter dinner, or gather as a family. Covenant Living staff across the country went above and beyond to make Easter as special as possible for you, despite physical distancing and stay at home orders. The photos and comments from residents are testimony that this disrupted holiday went better than expected, and that the meaning of Easter was just as powerful – the gift of hope, love and a joyful life. During one of the many church services I watched online this Easter, I made note of a statement by one pastor that caught my attention. The word “hope” is mentioned 81 times in the New Testament ... once before the Resurrection, and 80 times after. I haven't verified that ...

As I close the shortest update since we started this journey together, I cling to the chorus of this week's hand-washing song ... My Living Hope, by Phil Wickham.

Hallelujah! Praise the one who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain;
there's salvation in your name;
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

I pray each one of you feel the hope and love of our Lord Jesus Christ this week.

Thank you.