



Date: March 17, 2020

From: Thom Wright, PhD, CEO/Executive Director

**Re: COVID-19 Prevention – Secure Closing of The Meeting House, Northampton through April 30, 2020**

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The COVID-19 threat has consumed much of the last two weeks for all us and the same is true for leadership as we have engaged with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on this topic. After watching the progression of COVID-19 over the last few days and based on the strong recommendation for senior living communities by MDPH working in collaboration with the CDC, **we have made the decision to do a secure closing of The Meeting House effective March 18, 2020 through April 30, 2020.**

**Please note that as of this date there are no cases of coronavirus at Lathrop. If there is a confirmed case at Lathrop, management will inform you that there is a case without disclosing specific identifiable information.**

***What is a secure closing?***

A secure closing means we will be restricting the following people/activities until April 30, 2020:

- The Meeting House will be closed to residents, other than retrieving mail.
- All programs (educational, entertainment, etc.) will be canceled. **By not using the common spaces, Lathrop will be better able to maintain cleaning and disinfecting protocol.** We simply do not have the staff to clean the Meeting House daily and are focused on the congregate living spaces at the Inn.
- Residents will have access to the mailroom, **only**. Please refrain from other spaces which will be locked off. This includes the pool room at the blue house.
- Guest room reservations will be canceled.
- **Transportation will be limited to medical appointments only on both campuses.**
- **Mail delivery:** At present, the Postmaster assures us that mail will be delivered, as always. Mail can be retrieved anytime by residents, but we do recommend maintaining social distancing. This means staying 6 feet apart from one another.
- **The office will be staffed at least part of the day Monday-Friday for general questions or concerns and a maintenance staff will be onsite, as well.**