

Buckner Retirement Services Weekly Update

July 7, 2020

Dear Buckner Residents and Families,

Last week, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order for all Texans to wear masks inside enclosed public area and outside if unable to maintain six feet of social distancing from others – so this week, I'd like to talk more about masks.

Since March, masks and face coverings have been a vital part of how we mitigate risk of transmission at our communities. Scroll through our social media feeds, and you will see our residents and associates masked up to protect each other.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been conflicting information about masks, so I understand the frustration many might feel. However, [the CDC recommends](#) wearing a cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household.

Those of you who know me well will know that I am a strong believer in protecting our individual liberties. I am old enough to remember when seat belt laws were first introduced. At that time, there were people who thought it was an infringement of their liberties, but today it is widely accepted and saves lives.

Many of the people living at Buckner communities today are extremely concerned about COVID-19 and appreciate that masks are being required. We are also asking associates who work in a Buckner community to take it seriously for themselves and their families to ultimately protect the residents they serve. Wearing a mask during this time is a small sacrifice to protect each of you.

New [research released in the journal *Physics of Fluids*](#) details the potential spread of infectious droplets via a cough. Without a face covering or mask, a cough can spread droplets up to 12 ft. A single-layer bandana can reduce this to 3.5 ft., while a cone-style mask will reduce the distance to 8 in and a homemade stitched cotton mask with two layers of fabric reduces the distance to just 2.5 in. Mask use and the subsequent reduction in droplet exposure has been discussed with the six Medical Directors at the respective Buckner campuses. The Medical Directors support the use of masks, social distancing and handwashing as some of the best methods to reduce possible exposure.

Face coverings are extremely important to decreasing the likelihood of transmission, especially since those who might not realize they are asymptomatic positive for COVID-19 can still infect others.

A mask alone is not the solution to beating this virus and getting back to normal, but it is part of a bigger plan to protect each other and those most vulnerable among us so that Texas can get back to opening and we all can see our loved ones again.

For real-time updates of all PUIs and cases, please continue to visit the BRS website (www.BucknerRetirement.org) for our community tracker and timelines, as well as our lists of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) for your reference –you may also call 855-754-3338 with questions at any time.

Be safe and thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,
Charlie Wilson
Senior Vice President
Buckner Retirement Services