



May 26, 2020

Dear Bane Care Families:

I hope you all had a restful Memorial Day, and as Massachusetts “opens up” this week, we are reminded that for all of us, the hard work and vigilance continues. Last week was a good week for us, both in terms of the promising developments across all of our buildings, as well as the actual data that we use to measure and report.

With regard to our work, I am pleased to report that we have now completed (and exceeded) the 90% test requirement and have tested each staff member and resident across every facility, and we now have an accurate baseline assessment. Going forward we anticipate increased “surveillance testing” which will be an important measure of how and when we can start to open up our doors as well. I know that many of you follow our daily reports, and as you can see, as of today seven of our 11 facilities are “covid free” and the other four are all trending to be there soon. This is a testament to the incredible work of our entire organization, especially our heroic front-line workers, whose dedication and effort are simply incredible. We realize however these great results are only a single point in time, and we are remaining intensely vigilant to try and keep the virus away. While the press likes to focus on the lethal nature of what has happened in nursing homes, we celebrate the amazing stories of recoveries, of which there have been so many.

We have also passed muster with 100% of the accountability measures of the Department of Public Health, which not only allows us to access the much-needed additional support, but also validates our work, and should inspire confidence and optimism for the future. I am personally focused on making sure that we can open up our doors to your visits as soon as possible, and as I said last week, we are still awaiting guidance on that from our regulators.

Last week, I shared the signature drive to support a ballot initiative which is underway to secure adequate funding for MA nursing homes. Thanks to many of you who signed up. The deadline is later this week, so if you haven’t signed up yet, I’d respectfully ask that you please do it today. It only takes two minutes and can be done electronically here: <https://www.maseniorcoalition.com/support-our-seniors>

Finally, this will be my last weekly letter to you for now. That doesn’t mean that our work is stopping- in fact, every week that goes by we are doubling down our energy and focus on dealing with this virus. Going forward I will be in touch as specific news comes forward, such as when visitations can begin again. It has been my privilege to be able to reach out to you weekly, and at the risk of being glib, we are all in this together. As I said to you in my first letter to you on March 16 and in the March 24 video, we have your back.

Thank you for your patience, trust and inspiration.

Gratefully,

Rich Bane