

**Transcript**  
**Weekly Update**  
**February 13, 2021**



Alex Metricarti: Hello! I'm Alex Metricarti, Chief Marketing and Public Relations Officer for Living Branches. Today is Saturday, February 13, 2021. I'm here with just a few short updates. Ed Brubaker, our President/CEO, and I will be back next week with one of our regular videos. In the meantime, here are a few updates for you.

First of all, let's start with our Covid case counts at Living Branches. At the current time we have one resident in Oakwood Court who is testing positive. And that is the only person – staff or resident – who is positive right now, which is great news. Because we have such few cases on our campuses and because the positivity rate in Montgomery and Bucks county is declining, we felt confident this week that we could restart visits for residents in Health Care, Memory Care, and Personal Care. These are the community space visits that we did in the fall in the Chapel or Fellowship Rooms or activity room – in other common spaces. If you have not already and would like to sign up for a visit with your loved one, please go to our website at [livingbranches.org/coronavirus](http://livingbranches.org/coronavirus) and there are links on that page to get you to the sign ups.

For the present time, we still are not having on campus visits for residents in Residential Living. The reason for that is because obviously those visits would be taking place in individual residences and not in a common area. We want the positivity rate to decline just a little bit more before we reopen for Residential Living visits. We are targeting 5% in Montgomery and Bucks county. This week Montgomery county was at 7.5% - something right around there. So the positivity rate is really declining. So hopefully just a few more weeks and we'll reopen for Residential Living visits as well.

We continue having our vaccination clinics. At this point, if you have not signed up for a vaccine and you want to receive one and you are a resident of Living Branches, please make sure you are talking with your social worker because we have had clinics for residents on all three campuses at this point.

You may have read in the news recently and seen that the CDC has revamped its guidelines for quarantine for persons who are vaccinated. I want to make sure that we all understand that unfortunately that information does not apply to residents or staff who are living or working in skilled nursing/Health Care, Memory Care, or Personal Care. In fact, yesterday the state of Pennsylvania released what is called a HON which is basically the guidelines they are giving us and they did not include any changes for quarantine for persons who are vaccinated. So what that means is that if someone is exposed to Covid on one of our campuses, if they're a resident or a staff person, that area is shutting down for 14 days and we are going through our normal pandemic protocols. From my opinion, sort of reading through the lines, the CDC and the

Pennsylvania Health Department just feel they don't have quite enough information yet about how the vaccine can protect people in congregate living areas, which is of course what we are. At the present time, no changes for us, which is a little bit disappointing. But we've come this far and we don't want to allow Covid back into our campuses.

The other thing I want to update you on has nothing to do with Covid, which is very encouraging. And that is that Living Branches is getting ready to introduce an emergency alert system that will be able to notify residents, resident family members, and staff persons if there is an emergency on campus. This is similar to many school districts, where you get called and notified if there is a snow day or something like that. We will be able to do the same thing. You'll see more information coming in the next few weeks, but I did just want to make you aware that it is something we're looking forward to introducing.

If you have any questions about that, you can email [coronavirusquestions@livniqbranches.org](mailto:coronavirusquestions@livniqbranches.org). And I'll see you all next week. Thank you!