

New Perspective

May 12, 2020

Dear Residents, Tenants, and Family Members:

Senior citizens over the age of 70 likely heard stories from their parents about the challenges presented by the Spanish flu of 1918. The Spanish flu lasted from the spring of 1918 through the spring/early summer of 1919, infecting 500 million people—approximately a third of the world’s population at the time. The measures to prevent the spread of the deadly Spanish flu are in significant part the same as are in place today. In 1918, an Oregon newspaper article read: “We appeal to your civil patriotism to co-operate with us in our efforts to stamp out the Spanish Influenza or ‘Flu’ Plague in Portland by wearing a mask.” In addition to imploring citizens to wear a face cover (to include covering one’s face when coughing and sneezing), public health officials advocated for social distancing and washing with soap and water to contain the spread of the virus.

I have shared on several occasions New Perspective’s efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include the age-old measures of wearing a face cover when among people, diligent hand hygiene, and social distancing. In addition to these measures, we have worked to find additional ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Since the pandemic began, **New Perspective has invested over \$500,000 toward our virus prevention efforts, to include \$80,000 recently directed at an electrostatic sanitizing system.**

This new system allows us to provide a deep clean to all high traffic or targeted surfaces daily. While normal cleaning efforts are still a must, the addition of this one-step cleaning process on top of our regular procedure helps us to quickly disinfect surfaces—**killing bacteria and multiple viruses, including COVID-19, in 2 minutes or less.**

Implementing this system does not lesson the importance of continuing to practice social distancing, diligent hand hygiene, and wearing of a face cover when in close proximity to others. We must keep at the forefront of our minds that more than 50% of people who are infected with the virus have no symptoms. In addition, no one should rely on a negative COVID-19 test result as a reason to relax their practice of virus prevention measures. Dr. Mike Osterholm, world-renowned University of Minnesota epidemiologist, remains vocal about the use of “Emergency Use” COVID-19 test kits. These tests, which are in predominant use, have not yet been approved by the FDA. As such, Dr. Osterholm reports a significant number of test results are false negatives. Regardless of the receipt of a test result, Dr. Osterholm warns that one can be negative on the date of testing and positive the next. The test only captures a snapshot picture in time.

That said, **I remain optimistic.** With time, the reliability and availability of testing will improve, treatments will be developed, and a vaccine will be created. Until then we continue to devote our full effort to preventing the spread of the virus. I thank you, again, for your continued support of our fight against COVID-19. Your words of encouragement to our team members fill us with gratitude every time we receive them. **The level of care and dedication shown by our team members continues to humble me. They are truly heroes.**

Sincerely,



Chris Hyatt
President