

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays all. In planning for the holidays and guests arriving, just a quick update on the COVID-19 virus and a few reminders follow:**

**COVID-19 Update:** Marion County is seeing a small spike in the number of COVID-19 cases. Zip codes in our area are showing increasing daily averages in those testing positive for the virus as well.

It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to **follow safety protocols—stay home if you are sick (or quarantine if exposed to someone positive or traveled from a location with substantial community spread), practice social distancing of at least 6 ft., avoid large crowds, wear a face mask, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.**

If you have any concerns regarding your health or are having symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider or the Marion County Health Department. The health department offers free COVID-19 testing by appointment (352-644-2590). You do not need to be experiencing symptoms to be tested. Testing is also available at many other local medical providers, including urgent care facilities and pharmacies; call before visiting a facility to let them know if you would like to be tested for COVID-19.

**Reminders:** Guests are not allowed to participate in indoor activities other than at The Club at Candler Hills and in Circle Square Commons planned events, where safety protocols must be maintained.

Guests are allowed at all outdoor facilities and events with no limitations on numbers **except at the community pools**. A limit of two (2) guests may accompany the resident to the community pools. Residents and guests must follow all safety protocols.

To say the least, 2020 has been a challenging year and I suspect many of us are ready to see this year out on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I hope you are able to take pleasure in this wonderful time of year and enjoy being with family and friends whether it in person, by Zoom or Skype or a delightful phone call during this holiday season. We look forward to a more normal 2021!