Wilmington Housing Authority 41 Deming Way, Wilmington, MA 01887 (978) 658-8531 Fax: (978) 657-4003

March 12, 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Residents:

The Wilmington Housing Authority (WHA) joins various health agencies and officials from around the world in acknowledging and monitoring the public outbreak of respiratory disease cause by the coronavirus. According to the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Massachusetts is considered low risk.

The CDC recommends several sanitation tips to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, including:

- Avoid close contact: Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- Stay home when you are sick: If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
- Cover your mouth & nose: Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.
- Clean your hands: Washing your hands often will protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-base hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth: Germs are often spread when a person touches something this is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.



If you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, please avoid contact with others and call ahead to your primary care provider before immediately seeking medical care.

Individuals at higher risk are those who have recently traveled to any of the five countries identified by the CDC: <u>CHINA, IRAN, ITALY, SOUTH KOREA, AND JAPAN.</u>

This is a rapidly changing situation and the WHA remains committed to the health and safety of our employees and our residents. Unfortunately, there is not a vaccine or specific treatment presently available to treat coronavirus, but together we can take preventative measures to help respond to this emerging public health threat.

The WHA will be wiping down (disinfecting) railings, elevators, common areas where many people come into contract with several times a day.

Attached are two flyers with more information from the CDC. Additional recommendations and information on this evolving situation can be found on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

Sincerely,

WHA MANGEMENT