

# What COVID-19 Means for Healthcare and Senior Living

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#### **Discussion Guide**



- The New Normal
- Business Implications
- Balancing Seniors Housing Residents' Safety as Communities Reopen
- A Strategic Approach
- Advancing Considerations in Practice



#### The New Normal for Healthcare



There is no "back to normal" for the foreseeable future; we will be living and operating in a non-zero risk environment



Helping people stay at home is now an important healthcare activity (i.e., part of the "delivery" system)





### Three Major Implications for Senior Living



#### Senior living value must be crystal clear relative to alternatives

### Resident health is your business

## Strategic risk management is also your business

- There will be higher perceived risks, therefore perceived value must be even higher
- Forced transparency
- Your value will be judged on the health and wellness of your residents
- Toolbox just got bigger

- "Peace of mind" for all constituents will depend on your ability to pro-actively and strategically manage infection risk in a high risk and uncertain environment
- Risk management is all about outcomes





## Healthcare Flexibility Is a Necessary Component of Managing Senior Population Going Forward

STATUS QUO



#### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- · Volume-based care
- High hospitalization and ER rates
- Shorter life span, greater use of nursing home at end of life
- Frustrated residents and families

#### RE-DEPLOYING HEALTHCARE \$



#### MORE FLEXIBILITY TO FINANCE:

- Integrated primary care
- Care management
- Technology and data
- Non-medical supports and services
- Social determinants of health

## TO DELIVER VALUE TO CONSUMERS



#### POSITIVE QUALITY OUTCOMES:

- Clinical outcomes
- Patient preferences
- Social support outcomes
- Caregiver support
- Longer lives







	Benefit	Number of Plans Offering in 2020:
New Primarily Health-Related Supplemental Benefits	In-Home Support Services	223
	Adult Day Health Services	85
	Home-Based Palliative Care	61
Pri h-R len	Support for Caregivers of Enrollees	125
New F Health Suppl Be	Therapeutic Massage	230
A B	TOTAL (offering at least 1 new primarily health- related supplemental benefit):	500
for	Food and Produce	101
v C	Meals (beyond limited basis)	71
Benefits (SSBCI)	Pest Control	118
Ber (SS	Transportation for Non-Medical Needs	88
	Indoor Air Quality Equipment and Services	52
	Social Needs Benefit	34
pplemen	Complementary Therapies	1
oni	Services Supporting Self-Direction	20
Sup	Structural Home Modifications	44
02	General Supports for Living	67
Special	Other: Service Dog Supports	51
Sp	TOTAL (offering at least 1 SSBCI):	245

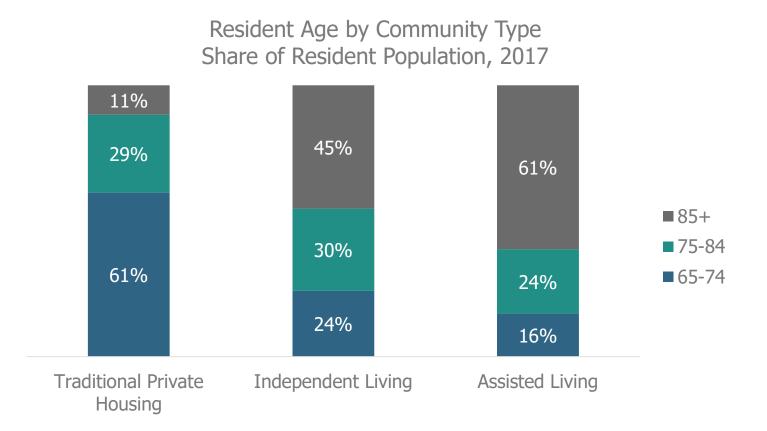
Total number of plans offering at least 1 SSBCI and/or at least 1 new primarily health-related supplemental benefit: **619** 





## Seniors Housing Residents Are Vulnerable to Serious Illness

Seniors housing residents are, on average, older than older adults who live in private housing in the community

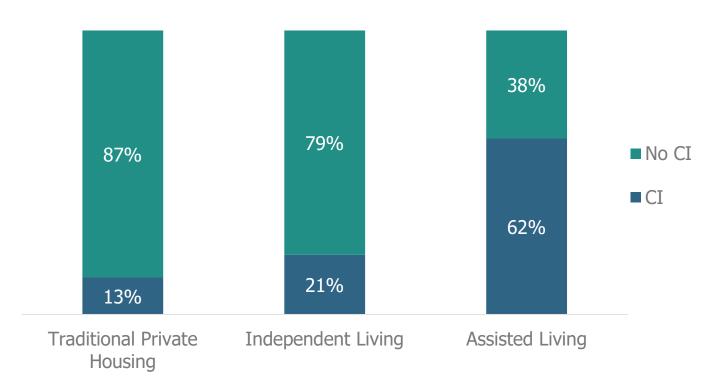






## Seniors Housing Residents Have Higher Rates of Cognitive Impairment

Cognitive Impairment (CI) by Community Type Share of Resident Population, 2017

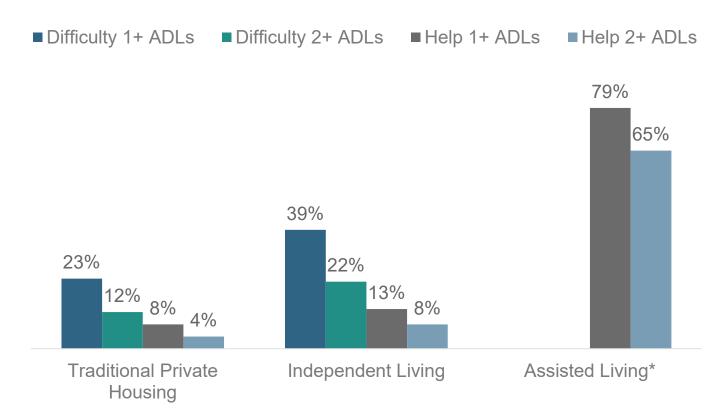






## And Have Higher Levels of Functional Impairment

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) by Community Type Share of Resident Population, 2017

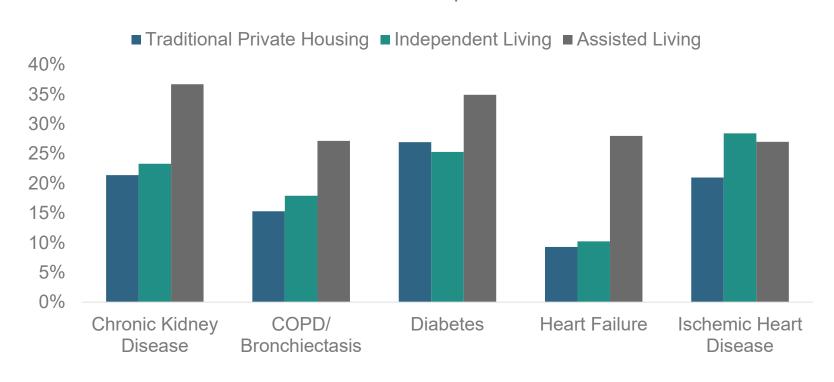




### Prevalence of Certain Chronic Conditions Creates ASSOCIATION LIVING LONGER BEHEF a Higher Risk For Poor Outcomes from COVID-19



Prevalence of Medical Conditions Contributing to Higher Risk of COVID-19 by Community Type Share of Resident Population, 2017







### Managing "Risk" and Improving Outcomes Necessary To Serve This Population in Future



#### Risk Assessment

Identification of risk among a known and defined population (e.g., number of residents of senior living community at risk for falls, number of residents with infection)



#### Preventative intervention

(e.g., medication review, therapy for balance, strength, removal of obstacles, lighting, use of social distancing, infection control, air flow, personal protective equipment)



#### Measurement

Monitoring of data to inform intervention (e.g., number of falls, number of infections)



#### **Business Implications**



#### Pre-COVID-19:

 Very few operators assumed that population/public health management was a mission critical competency

#### Today:

- Every single operator needs a *strategy* to assess risk, measure it, and manage/mitigate it
- Without a strategy, you will not be able to manage reopening, regain revenue, or deliver on the value proposition



# Balancing Seniors Housing Residents' Safety As Communities Reopen



## Seniors Housing Operators' Response to Coronavirus



Evaluate infection control protocols for deficiencies and implement additional preventative measures

Approach to testing evolves based on available resources, state requirements, and number of positive cases

Cohort multiple COVID-19 positive residents, if possible

Expect declines in resident wellness and functional abilities due to reduced activity

Strategy for reopening communities includes local data and judgment



#### What Do We Mean by "Reopening" Seniors Housing?









Allowing for non-essential visitors



Enabling new resident move-ins and restoring tours around communities



### There's No Easy Answer and Many Challenges



- There are still many unknowns including routes of transmission (e.g., through air particles) and the likelihood and timing of vaccine availability
- Operators' ability to prevent new transmissions is dependent on infection in surrounding geographies
- Public health guidance varies by state
- Residents, families, and states have differing opinions about risk tolerance
- Resident safety at expense of social engagement is not sustainable indefinitely



Expect to be operating in a non-zero risk environment for the foreseeable future and plan to approach the management of this risk in a proactive manner to provide all stakeholders (e.g., residents, families, staff) peace of mind and positive health outcomes





#### Foundational Capabilities Required to Restore Continuum of Support and Access to Communities



Master "safety-first" protocols before beginning to reduce restrictions on activities and visitors



Know the baseline of infection transmission within your organization and larger community



Prepare to continuously monitor risk in the larger community and within your organization



## A Strategic Approach





## A Measured and Phased Approach to Relaxing Restrictions

Assess Current Risk and Establish Safety-First Protocols Managing Risk in Phased Reopening

**Initial Phase** 

Maintenance Phase

Highly restrictive environment for residents, staff, programs, visitation, and new residents

With safety-first protocols established, begin restoring services and social engagement

With demonstrated ability to minimize transmission and contain spread, continue restoring services and social engagement



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## Continuous Monitoring in Larger Community and Internally to Understand Transmission Risk

## Data to Collect/Monitor

- Number of daily new cases
- Number of daily new tests
- Number of daily new deaths

## What to Calculate with Collected Data

- Rate of change in daily tests and daily cases
- □ Positivity rate: positive tests (i.e., new cases) over total tests
- Rolling averages

## What to Look for in Data Analysis

- □ Direction of daily trend of tests and cases
- ☐ If testing is increasing and number of new cases is decreasing
- Overall trends

   (smooths out inconsistent data collection)

Important to focus on daily trends instead of cumulative trends – though cumulative data can provide an overall view, daily trends provide a crucial snapshot of the current direction of tests and cases





## Key External Considerations: Infection in Community and Testing

- Local reopening phase
- Local and state testing, new daily cases, and new daily deaths in surrounding communities
- Availability and timeliness of testing
- State requirements and resources for testing staff and residents

#### Key Data Element: Positivity Rates in Testing

- Important to not solely focus on the number of cases decreasing but to also look at the *positivity rates in testing* (viral tests, not antibody tests)
- If community has a *high* positivity rate, it might be only testing symptomatic
  individuals therefore not testing a broad enough population to know the extent
  of the spread of the virus in the community
- Communities should ideally have low positivity rates (the World Health Organization recommends 5% or lower) – ensures communities are testing a large enough sample size





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- New transmissions among residents and staff
- Preventive measures in all aspects of operations
  - ☐ Programs, meals, and services
  - ☐ Visitation
  - New residents



### **External Considerations and Examples**



	Managing Risk in Phased Reopening		
		Initial Phase Options	Maintenance Phase Options
Local Reopening Phase		External community/state in Phase 3 reopening stage Daily communication with state and local health department officials	Weekly communication with state and local health department officials
Local Transmission and Infection Monitoring		New daily cases and deaths suggest persistent pattern of decreasing transmission within community	New daily cases and deaths suggest continuation of decreasing transmission within community
Testing Support		Sufficient access to testing and quick turnaround of testing results Positivity rates below five percent	Positivity rates below five percent for a sustained period of time



### **Internal Considerations and Examples**



	Managing Risk in Phased Reopening			
		Initial Phase Options		Maintenance Phase Options
Transmission and Infection Monitoring		Weekly testing of all staff who previously tested negative No new positive confirmed cases for 14 days Monitoring of residents' overall health before symptoms develop Check residents' symptoms daily or twice weekly Isolate and test symptomatic residents Contact tracing policy in place		Weekly testing of all staff who previously tested negative No new positive cases for 28 days Check residents' symptoms daily or twice weekly Isolate and test symptomatic residents Contact tracing policy in place







	Managing Risk in Phased Reopening		
	Initial Phase Options	Maintenance Phase Options	
Prevention	<ul> <li>Continued social distancing practices</li> <li>Continued PPE usage and hand washing standards</li> <li>Heightened cleaning protocols for high-touch areas (e.g., hourly)</li> <li>Monitor staff absences</li> <li>Flexible leave policies and practices for staff</li> <li>Compensate staff to stay home when sick</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continued PPE usage and hand washing standards</li> <li>Monitor staff absences and turnover</li> <li>Allow staff to move freely between buildings</li> </ul>	



### Internal Considerations and Examples



	Managing Risk in Phased Reopening			
		Initial Phase Options		Maintenance Phase Options
Programs, Meals, and Services		Open beauty parlor at reduced capacity Allow small group activities (<10) with social distancing Serve one meal daily in communal dining room, up to 10-15 people per seating Serve two meals daily in communal dining room, cleaning after each seating, up to 10-15 people per seating Seat one person per table to allow for social distancing Allow walking with social distancing Open communal dining at reduced capacity		up to 25 people per seating



### Internal Considerations and Examples



	Managing Risk in Phased Reopening		
	Initial Phase Options	Maintenance Phase Options	
Visitation	<ul> <li>Outdoors or in individual resident room</li> <li>Limited to one family member per slot</li> <li>Time limited visitation by appointment</li> <li>All visitors screened and masked</li> <li>Require protective face coverings during entirety of visit</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Indoor visitation</li> <li>All visitor screened and masked</li> <li>No limit on number or frequency of visits</li> <li>No schedule requirements</li> <li>Extended visitation</li> <li>Check symptoms of all visitors</li> <li>Require protective face coverings outside residents' own room</li> </ul>	
New Residents	<ul> <li>Continued virtual tours</li> <li>On-campus tours with one family member or guest</li> <li>New residents required to isolate for 10-14 days</li> <li>New residents allowed with negative test proof</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>On-campus tours with no limit on tour size</li> <li>Communal areas included in tour</li> </ul>	



### Advancing Considerations in Practice



## Frequent Collaboration and Communication with Residents and Families





Operators must be in frequent communication with residents and families about risk management efforts, new cases/potential outbreaks



Residents and families must understand and adopt new policies that enable visitation



Families and residents will also require education about the risks and trade-offs inherent in moving toward a greater degree of social interaction



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## Collaboration with Policymakers and Regulators Also Key



While frequent,
widespread, and consistent
testing is the best practice
for reopening safely, many
operators will need
assistance with the costs
and logistics



Regulators will require education on the severe cognitive and functional health risks to seniors housing residents of failing to reopen



All involved will need to recognize the public health risk that loneliness related to social isolation poses to these residents and balance this with maximizing safety



# Stay Tuned for Publicly Available White Paper and Member Tools!



### **ATI Advisory**



Research and advisory services firm changing how businesses, communities, and public programs serve frail older adults



#### Our expertise

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- Post-acute care service delivery innovation, including bundled payment
- Long term care service delivery innovation, including ISNPs
- Care model design and social determinants of health
- Federal and state health policy
- Seniors housing and healthcare integration
- Investment due diligence and financial analysis



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