

Cathedral Square

As described by Deborah Bouton, Director of Communications & Outreach, and Kim Fitzgerald, CEO (VLI '18), Cathedral Square is incredibly busy keeping their residents and staff safe. Cathedral Square has 25 housing communities for older adults and people with disabilities, a total of 1,300 residents, and about 170 staff. Two of their facilities provide assisted living and memory care; the other 23 are independent living. Here are a few excerpts from recent updates:

In an effort to address loneliness and isolation, we have several initiatives underway to maintain connections with residents — and to connect residents with each other — through phone calls, social media, mail and other means. For example, we have put out the call for handmade cards from schoolchildren for our residents, one of our SASH coordinators is leading “Facebook Live” mindfulness sessions, and a regular volunteer is leading chair yoga sessions via Zoom. Residents know to call the office to hear a recording with a daily update, and SASH coordinators have scheduled weekly conference calls with their residents. We have also created [a guide for residents](#) about online communication tools such as Zoom.

Recognizing the incredible services our front-line staff are providing and the difficult circumstances under which they are working, Kim has instituted a “hero pay” initiative that boosts their hourly pay rate during this time. The boost is retroactive to March 29 and will remain in effect through the lifting of the Governor’s “stay at home” order, which has just been extended through May 15. This is being funded by the federal “payroll protection plan” Congress passed to help businesses during this time. We are so glad to be able to show our appreciation for our essential staff!

[Cathedral Square’s Response to Coronavirus](#): These protocols have garnered a lot of praise from the State of Vermont and nonprofit housing peers, and this page was suggested as a model for other organizations by the Vermont Department of Health.