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## The Safety of Living in Senior Communities

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Everyone is at risk from COVID19, particularly senior citizens living in retirement independent communities. The concern is how to make these communities safe for senior living today?

Change is inevitable as we age and now especially to those in senior living communities. Moving into a senior living facility uproots and rearranges lives. A feeling of misplacement is all too real, and many seniors are having second thoughts about moving into a retirement community and staying well and safe.

The pandemic has pushed senior living centers to follow strict protocols to keep residents safe. To stay compliant, these facilities are abiding by the CDC's COVID 19 protocols while offering the same amenities that seniors have come to expect.

Administrators of community living facilities are working together with the residents, staff and public health officials to create a safe living environment and prevent the spread of COVID 19. Without exception, senior living communities have adapted responsibly to provide the safest and most fulfilling community for older adults.

For added protection, several local senior living communities have addressed the concerns of health safety by installing HEPA filtration systems, disinfectant UV lighting and anti-microbial surfaces, in addition to strict sanitation procedures to combat COVID19 and other infectious diseases.

Prevalent everywhere today, the new normal for senior living communities include wearing masks, washing hands, and distancing. Senior communities can also test and screen residents 24 hours a day and are first in line for the COVID19 vaccine.

Throughout the pandemic, assisted living and senior retirement communities have adapted to COVID19 protocols by using technology to keep residents engaged with their friends and family. Older adults do not have to feel isolated: Staying in touch through social media has replaced in-person visits and has helped seniors adapt so they are able to continue "new" normal activities during the new social distancing era.

Nothing can replace the comfort of a hug and the camaraderie of living room conversation. Like everyone everywhere living in the wake of COVID19, seniors still want and need the hospitality and socialization associated with community living.

Today, senior living communities are taking care of their residents and keeping them safe while engaging them in a new and unfamiliar way of socialization.