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April 20, 2021

Dear Member of the Jefferson Council on Aging, Inc.,

I am writing to give you news that you have been waiting for since the pandemic began in March 2020. As of May 3, 2021, all JCOA Senior Centers will reopen. While the routine you have come to know and love may be somewhat limited in the beginning, the ability to safely welcome back our members and staff remains our top priority.

With this in mind, we have been and will continue to work closely with state and local leaders as well as public health officials to reopen the centers with new health and safety precautions in place. There will be signage on the outside and throughout the building along with hand sanitation for your use.

We would like to make you aware of some changes that will be occurring so that you can be prepared for what will be taking place before you enter the building.

For our members and congregants that drive themselves or walk to the centers, you will be greeted by staff at a table set up outside before entering. Upon arriving you will be given a short questionnaire that you will need to fill out and you will also have your temperature taken before you can enter. This questionnaire will need to be completed daily as will the recording of your temperature. If your temperature is 100 degrees or above, which is CDC recommendations, you will not be allowed inside. If you answer yes to any of the questions, you will not be allowed to enter. Once inside, there will be hand sanitizing stations for your use as you enter the building and throughout as well.

For members who come using JCOA transportation, you will also have your temperature taken and complete a questionnaire before boarding the van. Again, if your temperature is 100 degrees or above, you will not be allowed on the bus. Once you arrive at the center, you will be brought to a different entrance of the building since your temperature has already been

recorded and you have completed the questionnaire. If you answer yes to any question on the questionnaire, you will not be allowed to enter.

When at the center, you must wear a mask at all times, except when eating or drinking; however, once complete, you are to put the mask back on. You are required to observe social distancing as chairs will be placed 6 feet apart and you are not to move them. You are to refrain from shaking hands, hugging, etc.

Activities at the center will be limited to those where social distancing and direct contact can be avoided. The center will have bingo; however, you will not be able to pick your own cards. The staff will pick them for you. You are not allowed to serve yourself coffee or any food. The staff will wear masks and gloves, and serve you. If you are a congregate and eat your meal at the center, the staff will bring it to you.

Until further notice, no field trips will be allowed, nor any birthday parties. As card games require the sharing of cards, they will not be allowed for the time being.

Hopefully, we will return to normal as quickly as possible, but until then, we hope you will observe the rules for participation and understand that they were in place for your wellbeing.

Sincerely,

JEFFERSON COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.



Albert J. Robichaux, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO