

Speaker 1: Fox 12's, Sarah Hurwitz takes a look at how this is impacting retirement communities.

Sarah Hurwitz: Well, many neighborhoods like this one in North Portland are having to make tough decisions with these upcoming holidays about whether to see grandma or grandpa. You know, seniors have had a hard time being apart from their loved ones and the Executive Director of the Summerfield Estates Retirement Community says they were able to open for about a month before they had to shut down again during these new restrictions. A resident there who just had her daughter [00:00:30] visit, says that she does understand this decision.

Sarah Hurwitz: Just a few weeks ago, Cara Johnson's daughter came for a visit.

Cara Johnson: We finally said, "Okay, this isn't going to end anytime soon," so we decided we just go ahead and do what we needed to do.

Sarah Hurwitz: Johnson is a resident at Summerfield Estates Retirement Community in Tigard. She has two daughters and she says they live in California and travel a lot.

Cara Johnson: But it was wonderful actually [00:01:00] getting to see her.

Sarah Hurwitz: But Johnson says she and many other residents understand why visits are not allowed right now.

Cara Johnson: They share my view that this is the safest possible place we could be. For safety sake, I'm happy to do Zoom calls and Messenger and vid chats.

Sarah Hurwitz: And while residents may miss their loved ones, Executive Director, Kevin Stadelman says the retirement community is still finding safe and fun ways for residents to socialize, with hallway bingo and workout [00:01:30] classes that are spaced out with enough social distance.

Sarah Hurwitz: And he says, they are making sure to reach out to seniors who may feel lonely.

Kevin Stadelman: We'll do something fun with them. We'll bring them down to the dining room with nobody else's there and make them a special dessert or the chef will do something funny for them. You know, you do... I mean, these are family to us.

Sarah Hurwitz: Kara Johnson agrees.

Cara Johnson: This is really my family. These are the people that I can socialize with. These are the people I can argue politics with.

Sarah Hurwitz: And the executive director says [00:02:00] this has been tough on employees who are essentially quarantining all the time, and just going to and from work. From the mobile newsroom, Sarah Hurwitz, Fox 12.

