



# UV Disinfection in Senior Living

## The UV Box

Westminster Canterbury Richmond, a CCRC in Richmond, Virginia, bought five UV Boxes to disinfect caregiver communication devices in the nursing care area of their community a few years ago. Now, they use eight UV Boxes in multiple areas of the community, including one just for residents.

**Phone disinfection, and more** The first UV Boxes were brought in for disinfecting caregiver communication devices, says Will Blackwell, Administrator & Vice President of Health Services. The community's call-for-assistance system connects directly to caregiver phones, and with 158 residents in the Healthcare Center, caregivers are constantly on their phones responding to calls. Keeping the frequently-touched devices disinfected is an important part of Westminster Canterbury's hand hygiene program. Good hand hygiene is critical to maintaining resident and caregiver health.

Caregivers soon began using the UV Boxes to quickly disinfect other frequently touched items such as badges and eyeglasses, too. The UV Box takes just 55 seconds to disinfect items.

Now, there are UV Boxes throughout the extensive campus, including in the clinic, in the nursing care center and in assisted living.

**Extending the life of critical PPE** When COVID-19 appeared and the demand for PPE supplies exploded, the community researched using the UV box to disinfect PPE for reuse. After getting the go-ahead from manufacturers, they began disinfecting items such as goggles, N-95 masks and surgical masks. Although PPE availability has improved, the community continues to use the UV Box for disinfection. "It allows us to get the most out of our PPE," explains Johanna Vaughan, Assistant Director of Nursing. The community carefully monitors the number of times each item is disinfected and tosses items well before manufacturers' recommended limits.

Some of the UV Boxes are placed on rolling carts, along with hand sanitizer. When caregivers enter the room of a resident requiring extra care precautions, the cart is parked outside the room. As soon as the caregiver exits the room, they place their PPE in the UV Box and disinfect their items while sanitizing their hands. 55 seconds later, they are able to continue caring for others' needs.

**Residents use the UV Box, too** After hearing about the UV Boxes, the residents of Westminster Canterbury Richmond requested one for their own use. The community placed a UV Box near a popular activity area, and residents now disinfect their own masks and other items in a UV Box.

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