
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: MAY 21, 2020

Once again, I can tell you with a grateful heart that to the best of my knowledge, we remain virus-free here at Westminster. We pray for those at Bloomington Rehab who have been so devastated by this virus. It certainly serves as a great reminder of how quickly this virus can spread and how it takes everyone to prevent it to the greatest extent we can. For your role in this I say thank you. We know this is not without a cost, and I am not just speaking of financial, but of the emotional, spiritual and physical implications of isolation. Please, please, if there are any ways we can help you deal with these tough times, we would be honored to. I pray that over the next few days there will be hours of sunshine so people can enjoy some time outside, be it in the courtyard at Martin Health Center, on the Foundation Garden Walk or right outside the front door for others.

We are so hoping that today or tomorrow the decision to close McLean County's testing site is reversed but we have no indication of that as of this writing. The testing situation remains our biggest worry as the availability of testing does not come anywhere near the need here in our area. We have not had any further guidance on testing within Martin Health Center from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) or from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). We did receive a few test kits that we can use for residents if the need arises; though of course, a few, are not enough if we are required to test throughout our licensed areas. I continue to discuss this with our representatives as well as the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, the McLean County Health Department and the local hospitals. Unfortunately, in this area there is just not enough supply and we hope that this will change soon.

Next week we will begin using reusable containers to deliver food in Independent Living. When we started the delivery service, we did not know how long we would need to do it, and now it appears that it will continue for quite a bit longer. The disposable containers are very expensive. This move to reusable containers will save Westminster money and they will be able to be used for other purposes when this current pandemic is over. Of course, reusable containers must be returned to the kitchen for cleaning in the commercial dishwasher. Please rinse out your containers and return them to the black bin in your Y-lounges near the table where you place your menus. There will also

be bins at the entrances to the dining rooms on the first floor. We understand we are asking more of you by making this move but feel that it is important for its financial and environmental implications. Not everything can be put into a reusable container, but we will use them for your entrée, vegetable and starch as well as for salads and desserts. More information on this will be in your mailboxes the first of the week, and again, this process will begin on Wednesday, May 27 with the breakfast meal.

Monday is Memorial Day, a day that has been so important to this country as we remember those who have served on our behalf. Each year we have a Memorial Day service but unfortunately this year we will not be able to gather. A great group of individuals are providing what I believe will be a very memorable service for you at 10:00 a.m. on Channel 88.

Please let us know what we can continue to do to meet your needs. It is anticipated that in a week we will have moved to Phase III here in Illinois but that will not mean much change for Westminster Village. When we can alter things, we will assess what the risk of bringing people together is versus the gain.