
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

I pray, that as you read this, you and your loved ones are doing well. This is truly an unprecedented time for all of us and we need to remember to keep each other in our thoughts and prayers. I pray for all of you continually.

The two staff members that tested positive last week remain asymptomatic and if that continues, they will return soon. This week we again tested the residents and staff in Martin Health Center. All residents tested negative. Two staff members tested positive. Both were asymptomatic and one had not worked in the past week. For staff we are using the rapid test sent to us by Medicare. Because we can get the results in 15 minutes, we can immediately relieve individuals from their duties. This rapid test for our employees is an improvement but unfortunately, we have less than 2 weeks supply of test strips and all orders for more are delayed. This week Medicare promised to begin sending us the less expensive rapid test developed by Abbott. We are to get the first shipment of that soon. We will continue weekly testing of residents and staff in Martin Health Center at least until the positivity rate of the community drops below 5% and we have gone 14 days without any positives from the testing. Thanks to timely testing and quick action of staff, the 4 positives in the last 10 days are not considered "facility" acquired cases because that for the involved staff it was likely contracted from the community. Our goal is to get sufficient test supplies to regularly test all the Westminster staff.

As for the community at large, including Assisted Living, we have not had any new cases reported and we continue to appreciate everyone's diligence with taking necessary steps to help us keep Westminster safe. However, because of the number of cases in the community at large we need to continue to commit to each other that we are washing our hands frequently, maintaining safe distance, and wearing masks which cover both nose and mouth.

It is hard to get my head around the fact that professional football started last night. These players and staff are getting regular testing and we cannot get enough to test those most vulnerable to significant impact from COVID. This pandemic has certainly brought light to many disparities.