
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

I hope this finds you and all that are important to you doing well and staying safe. We received the results from last week's tests and are celebrating the fact that all of the residents tested negative. For our staff, we did have two individuals who had not worked recently test positive and they are recuperating at home. All of the previous staff who had tested positive are doing well and have returned to work. Again, none of these positive cases among staff have been considered facility-acquired but were community-acquired. We have tested residents in Martin Health Center again this week and await those results.

On another positive note, we received a new shipment of tests this week from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). They are now shipping a rapid test from the Abbott company called the BinaxNOW from which we get results in a matter of minutes. We received 160 which allowed us to test all of our MHC staff in the matter of two days and all results have been negative! We only have two part-time staff left to complete testing before the weekend, so this is fantastic news and has made the process much more efficient. We also just received another 120 tests which will be used again next week. This has been a huge help in assisting us with early detection of potentially asymptomatic staff. We are unsure if more tests will be received and have reached out to the manufacturer to see if more will be available. At least in a small way our testing situation is better than it was a few weeks ago.

I get a lot of questions about visits. For Martin Health Center and Assisted Living there are very prescribed rules about how visits can be done and those residents and families are well aware of them. In Independent Living there are less regulations but we do offer advice. Right now with these beautiful days I encourage you to find ways to visit with individuals outside. Be it your own patio, the Foundation Garden Walk or the front porch, we have a gorgeous property and outside visits are the safest. If you need to visit inside, we encourage you to use some of our common areas such as the Social Center where you can safely distance. The more contained an area is the greater the likelihood that the virus can be spread. Of course, there are times that you have family members or others in your apartment. Please practice distancing, wearing masks, and frequent

handwashing – all ways that the virus is less likely to be transmitted between people. We strongly discourage you from having anyone stay in your apartment. Most cases are transmitted within a household and this would be true in your apartment. We have discounts at hotels in the area for Westminster guests and would be glad to provide that information to you so you can assist your family in finding a place to stay.

There is an organization that identifies, each year, what should be the Word of the Year. I'm not sure what organization that is, but I would recommend that the 2020 Word of the Year should be "crazy." I have no idea how many times I say or hear "This is crazy!" in a week, but it is many times. Yes, this is crazy but true: this crazy time will someday be over and we will be fine going through it and beyond. Stay safe.