
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: MATT RIEHLE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

As I begin writing this update, I just received the report from our local Health Department indicating the continued significant upward trend of the positivity rate for COVID testing, and the strong possibility that McLean County will be placed on the State's warning list. Although we do understand that there is a significant impact related to the return of University students, it nonetheless will have an impact on the Westminster community as well. During our serial surveillance of our Martin Health Center staff we identified two staff persons who tested positive. Both individuals were asymptomatic, and we received results within 20 hours which allowed us to immediately take action and remove these persons from duty. All residents were immediately tested and at this time there have been no other positive cases either in residents or staff. These staff members are being monitored by our Leadership in direct collaboration with our local Health Department. Thanks to timely testing and quick action of staff this is not considered a "facility" acquired case because it only involved staff it was likely contracted from the community.

This brings us back to the importance of our overall County positivity rate and the need for everyone to take precautions as Barb has been discussing since March. Our staff has done a remarkable job through this crisis and understands how important this is. However, when our County rate goes over 10% it is increasingly likely that you will be in contact with someone who has been exposed. Hopefully with the statements that are being put out by our local leaders, our community will help us continue to help our resident population. The good news is we made a quick detection, took quick action, and all other tests have been negative and all others asymptomatic. We will continue our monitoring and testing per protocol in Martin Health Center and will be keeping an eye our Community positivity rate as we expect that may have an impact on our ability maintain the current phase we are in according to the Reopen Long Term Care plan in Illinois.

In other good news this morning, Martin Health Center just received the first batch of the rapid testing strips for COVID. This may be the first significant step in getting mass testing accomplished, even more quickly and more cost effective, which is the goal for

identifying potential sources of transmission. We, along with other long-term care providers, have voiced our concern that although this is a step in the right direction, we need to ensure there continues to be ample supply of the testing strips for us to functionally use. Currently they are only releasing about a one-week supply at a time.

As for the community at large, and 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 this significant increase in the community at large we need to continue to commit to each other that we are practicing washing our hands, maintaining safe distance, and wearing masks. In fact, wearing masks means it covers nose and mouth. Any wearing of a mask that does not cover both is not providing protection for yourself or those around you.

We thank everyone for their assistance with the in-person dining for Independent Living on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I believe the staff has done a great job adjusting, and because of everyone working to follow the safety precautions in place we are able to continue this service with an eye toward the possibility of adding an additional day in the upcoming weeks. Part of dining together, for those choosing to do so, is enjoying each other's company and conversation in a responsible fashion. Dining staff has asked me to remind groups that to be respectful of everyone's reservation please take after-meal conversations to the Social Center so that they can continue to get all parties into the dining room at the appropriate times. The chairs in the Social Center are set up to encourage safe gathering and that way meals can continue to go smoothly for everyone. As a reminder, the Governor did issue new guidance for restaurants that encourages diners to have their mask on when interacting with the servers.

Yes, there continues to be a lot of rules, and there are always a lot of changes as the rules and regulations for us are updated frequently. Truly, we will get through this together.