
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2020

As we see the case numbers dramatically increase in our broader community, and increase even more so in our region of the State, it's not a surprise that each day we deal with a COVID issue here at Westminster.

First and foremost, we give thanks for the situation we are in and for the fact that every single resident who has tested positive here at Westminster, of which there have not been many, have all been asymptomatic and have left quarantine except for the one resident who was diagnosed last week. This resident is doing very well and hopefully will be out of quarantine next week. In addition to that resident we do have three staff members, all of whom are in non-resident contact positions, that tested positive. The McLean County Health Department is so overwhelmed by the increase in cases that they are having difficulty doing contact tracing and say it could be three to six days before they can get to each positive case. That of course is not satisfactory here at Westminster so we have now trained all of Leadership on contact tracing, and for each of these positive cases, we identified those employees who have been within six feet of the positive case for fifteen minutes or more. All of those individuals have quarantined. Every time there is a positive case we have more impact because of the number of people that we quarantine, but it is the right thing to do.

I am so appreciative to Matt Riehle, Chrys Baker and all of the Leadership team for the incredible way they handle each one of these situations. As I have written to you before, it is not someone's fault when this happens. Right now in our community one in every ten tests is positive so we know we are going to be increasingly impacted. I plead with everyone to continue wearing your masks, to safely distance and to wash hands frequently. For everyone, if a trip out is not necessary, don't do it. We are very worried about our local businesses as it appears that we will be going into greater degrees of mitigation in the upcoming weeks. There are ways to safely shop, there are ways to have items delivered, and we want to support them but at the same time we want you to stay in as much as possible in order to keep everybody in the Westminster family safe.

We watch closely the metrics for the region as that is what indicates the possibility of changing from our current position to a more lax position or, as we anticipate, a more restrictive position. We will communicate if we do move to the next level of mitigation and what that means for us as an organization.

Until then, we continue to offer in-person services when safe to do so, programs on Channel 88, and make plans for Thanksgiving. For our employees, we are looking at many different ways to lift them up. Next week is our turkey giveaway for employees so each person will receive a frozen turkey. We are looking at ways to safely offer the Thanksgiving meal that is provided annually to employees as well. For the residents, there will be a Thanksgiving meal delivered mid-day on Thanksgiving Day. This is not the way any of us would prefer to celebrate the holiday but it is what we must do right now to protect each other.

As always, if you have recommendations or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us. Be well, and stay safe.