
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: MATT RIEHLE
DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2020

For the first time since March it seems as if news other than COVID-19 has taken center stage. However, if you have been paying attention, the number of positive tests and positivity rates for COVID-19 have continued to spike over the last week in McLean County and throughout the state. This is not the news we were wanting to hear. In response, we have stopped our limited in-person dining as of Wednesday. We appreciate how supportive our residents have been, and we do understand how important this is to many. We will be keeping a close eye on future directives and as soon as we are allowed to safely reopen we will do so as quickly as possible. It is always a balancing act between safety, personal choice, compliance with regulatory bodies and following best practice. We recognize not everyone sees things exactly the same but we maintain consistency with our process. Hopefully, this is one of the reasons we have remained so well here on campus and shows that the intersection of all four can be navigated as long as we all work to do our part. Susan and her staff in Life Enrichment have been working hard to continue providing activities to help everyone stay as active and engaged as possible during this difficult time.

As for Martin Health Center and Assisted Living, I am happy to report that since our last round of testing we have only had one non-caregiver staff person at MHC test positive. This person was already off work when we received their results and is doing very well. They have already been cleared to return next week and the rest of the staff and residents are doing well. We were alerted at Martin Health Center, that due to the same spike in local cases and positivity that caused us to cease in person dining in Independent Living, we are required to revert to "Tier 1," the highest level of mitigation, regardless of our status here at Westminster. We had already been implementing these measures so there was not a significant change to operations, however until we can move past this phase, we are required to hold any visits outside. This becomes challenging as the weather changes so we are hoping to see an allowance for us to progress to the next Tier as soon as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will allow us.

The news also continues to be good in Assisted Living. The residents that had previously tested positive have all continued to do extremely well, are essentially asymptomatic, and will have no further restrictions by next week. The staff that had tested positive or had been under quarantine have also been doing excellent. Several staff persons have returned, and the remainder will be returning in the next few days. As a reminder, when we do go through this process, we work directly with the McLean County Health Department and receive a full clearance from them before any staff person can return or any resident guidelines are changed.

The diligence of staff and residents related to masking, testing, hand washing, and social distancing continues to make a difference for our community. We know that given our local positivity rates, it is probably likely we may have an occasional positive test from time to time no matter what we do. However, with everyone's cooperation, we feel we have been blessed to remain in such good shape. Weekly testing will continue at both Martin Health Center and Assisted living for at least the next few weeks as this continues to be best practice for us to quickly isolate persons that can spread the virus. Testing result turnaround time is still not great but has improved from when we started months ago. We are working with the Health Department to hopefully obtain additional rapid tests that have been dispersed to them.

We are so grateful for all that is good on our campus. We recognize this is a challenging time for so many people and for so many reasons, but to see our staff and residents support each other on a daily basis gives us hope. Please do what you can to enjoy a fantastic summer-like weekend and, as always, we are here should you have any questions or concerns.