
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2020

This week, I received a Christmas card from one of Westminster's former residents who moved to be closer to family. Enclosed in the card was a photo taken on her 90th birthday here at Westminster. It is a beautiful photo of a beautiful family taken in the Westminster library. The date of this photo was March 6, 2020. I was struck when I received the photo in seeing the smiling faces without masks. On that day, March 6, we had no idea what was to come one week later on March 13, when the world shut down and life here at Westminster changed for all.

It has been more than nine months since we began working hard to prevent, protect and comply. The paperwork side of this has been onerous to say the least. My thanks go to the staff at Martin Health Center and Assisted Living who are completing multiple reports on COVID in our facility each week. Not only are there multiple reports, but they go to multiple federal and state agencies. This week will be the first time that we will report a resident death from COVID. This was a resident who tested positive, but the source of the infection was likely outside of Westminster. That doesn't matter. If someone dies within our facility who had tested positive and was showing symptoms, it is listed as a COVID death regardless of other conditions. It is from the reporting of individual facilities that we get the national statistics, and knowing the numbers is important.

This resident, of course, was not a number. This resident was loved, this resident had a loving family, and this resident contributed greatly to the community at large as well as Westminster Village. We pray for the resident's family as they go through this difficult time. I pray too for our staff as they feel the impact of COVID each day and have grieved at the loss of this resident as they do for all residents who pass from us. I recently read a book titled "The Caregivers Burden." It is about the grief that healthcare workers carry. The team here works hard to ease that burden for each other.

Our weekly testing continues and the timeliness of the results was somewhat better last week. From that testing we had one resident test positive who is asymptomatic. For the staff, we had gone several weeks without a positive case, but this week we have had two positives identified by the rapid tests. Both are asymptomatic, and both were

removed from work immediately. Contact tracing was done and those that were exposed to the staff members are in quarantine.

There is good news in this COVID update. We heard from CVS Healthcare this week, who is our partner for the vaccine that appears to be nearing approval in the next couple of weeks. Lots and lots of people across this country have been working on the distribution model for these vaccines. Westminster selected CVS as our partner several weeks ago. The first wave of vaccine should be available for residents in Martin Health Center and Assisted Living, and all Westminster staff. The State of Illinois is finalizing the priority list for the vaccine. We don't know when the vaccine will be available here. We will be sharing more information as we receive it. This news raised spirits.

As I conclude, the faces that I referenced in the 90th birthday photo were smiling, and this will be our reality in the future. Until then, let's keep doing what we have been to stay safe and we will get through this.