

July 10, 2020



Greetings,

As you are aware we reached out to you earlier in the week to inform you two staff members tested positive for COVID during last week's routine sentinel testing. The two individuals who tested positive are both asymptomatic, meaning they tested positive for the virus but are not showing any signs or symptoms of the virus. Many months ago as a precaution all staff began wearing surgical masks to assist in minimizing the spread of respiratory droplets which is the primary means of transmission for COVID. In combination of continuous hand hygiene and proper mask wearing, we have greatly reduced the opportunity for others to be introduced to this virus! Of the tests conducted, each resident received a negative result and the remaining staff members received a negative result! Although there is not absolute accuracy with the tests, results are presumed to be accurate if the test was properly administered and as such full precaution was instituted. The two staff members were removed from the schedule for two weeks and because symptoms may take a while to appear after transmission, individuals who reside with those who tested positive were also removed from the schedule for an additional length of time as a precautionary measure. To help mitigate viral transmission gowns, face shields and gloves are being utilized in addition to facemasks.

What is the difference between symptomatic and asymptomatic cases? "Symptomatic" means a person is experiencing symptoms associated to this illness while "asymptomatic" individuals do not present symptoms or problems associated with the virus, they feel healthy. Data suggests individuals who are asymptomatic may still transfer the virus to other individuals and is why our sentinel testing is vital, early dedication allows us to mitigate the spread by identifying positive cases early. In an effort to have an updated baseline of data each resident and staff member will undergo testing on Friday, July 10, 2020. This testing will be conducted by the state through the National Guard and will be more robust than the 10% of residents and all staff. We ask for prayers and positive thoughts that the two positive cases are isolated to those two individuals.

I would like to give a special thank you to a person we all know, Donna Wolin, RN/DNS. The timing of this news could not have come at more of an inopportune time as I am currently only available remotely. Donna has maintained great poise while managing this situation and swiftly put plans into action while fielding numerous calls and emails.

Please do not hesitate to reach out by email. I will be returning to the building on Tuesday, July 21 but will continue to review emails when able.

Take care,

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