

April 16th, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

Sometimes not a lot of news is good news!
(But we do have a few great things!)

We were able to skip testing this week for staff. We are now back to every other week testing for staff, with the hope of decreasing that frequency soon. Residents will be tested IF there is an outbreak or IF they have symptoms.

We will be reopening our dining service in each respective dining room. The kitchenettes are being fine-tuned, equipment and supplies are being moved back to each spot. **Dining in the dining rooms (no carts or trays coming from the main kitchen) is set to restart on Wednesday April 21st.**

We are still needing to be mindful of social distancing as we bring people back together. Visitors and family members will not yet be allowed in the dining areas or lounges. Visits need to continue in the individual resident rooms only or outdoors at this time.

Guidelines continue:

- **All visitors must be screened and sign in and out each visit.**
- **Please review and follow the visitor guidelines provided at the Screening Table.**
- **Masks are required for both visitor AND resident during the visit. This includes both indoor and outdoor visits. Masks must fully cover nose and mouth. Cloth masks and “gaters” are acceptable if clean and in good repair.**
- **Face shields do not count as masks**
- **Families are not allowed to feed residents at this time.**
- **Second floor residents will be able to have visitors starting 4/15 (unless they are still on quarantine).**
- **Please try and avoid arriving between 2:15pm-2:45pm as this is our shift change. If you do arrive and see staff waiting to be screened, please allow staff to “check in” so that they can get to the floors.**
- **Visitors please bring your own wheelchair or walker if needed. We do not have these currently available.**
- **Vaccinations are encouraged for all staff, residents and visitors.**
- **Current Visiting Hours – 9 AM to 7 PM Monday- Friday. 8 AM to 6 PM Saturday and Sunday.**

Please call if these times do not accommodate your family. We will make arrangements with you to ensure that you are screened and able to get in and out of the building.

At the April 14th County Board meeting, the County Board voted 23-1 to **support the concept of continuing long term care for Washington County residents.**

As shared in earlier communications, evaluating the future of Samaritan has been a thorough and comprehensive process for the last several years. Most recently a Community Task Force has been involved in a great deal of learning, discussions, meetings and providing a recommendation to the Health and Human Committee.

The Committee then took forth that recommendation to the County board as a whole. All involved have done a great deal of homework regarding our future. Discussions at the County Board uplifted the need to continue services to our current and future residents. They shared strong feelings of both a financial and moral obligation to these services.

HOW that will be done is the next step. Much work has already been done – and will continue in the months to come.

The County Executive was quite clear– that these services will need to be provided in a different building. The needs of this current building (for CBRF and SNF) have needs that are too costly and extensive.

Options are being explored. We anticipate that this will be at least a year process. Stay tuned! Feel free to ask along the way!

Stay healthy and we hope to see you soon!

Mari Beth Borek, NHA

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Samaritan Campus Team