

August 21, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Each week this communication builds on previous communications, as well as it tries to capture the fluid changes of the week. Please feel free to read the earlier communications on our website at:

www.samaritancampus.com

Because we had a positive case with one resident last week (8/14/2020), we did the mandatory testing for all staff and residents again this past Wednesday. This testing will continue weekly until we go 14 days without a positive case in our resident population. We continue to closely monitor our staff and residents for possible exposures to, or symptoms of COVID-19.

Based on the testing of 8/19/2020, we have four new cases; one resident and three staff. Cumulatively, since mid-July, we have had two residents and six staff test positive. We had no cases from the beginning of March through mid-July. Both residents and all staff are either asymptomatic and/or doing well.

When we have a resident that has a positive test result, they are quarantined for a 14 day period of time (unless there are some additional health issues – which may result in a 20 day quarantine). This means that they are limited to being in their room or therapy (being the only resident in the gym). All meals are provided in the room as well as in-room activities. Our Music Therapist makes visits to those in quarantine as well as to others on the floors. Masks are required for all residents who do come out of their rooms. This is to help minimize the spread of the virus.

If a staff person tests positive, they are immediately contacted and not allowed to work for a 10-14 day or more based on their symptoms. Staff who may have had direct contact with another positive staff person, or resident are evaluated and their plan is determined also by length of time of contact, mask use, etc. We are fortunate to have strong clinicians, as well as our Medical Director who are and have been active in determining the course of action.

We are vigilant in working to ensure that the spread is minimized. All staff wear masks consistently – all departments – all the time! We have hand sanitizers in each resident room along with many spots throughout the building. We have enhanced cleaning precautions that continue since March. We have a new ionizer machine that is being used for deep cleanings. Staff and resident education is constant. Daily screenings for everyone continue – all shifts – anyone and everyone!

We know that this information can be unsettling. We know that the lapse of time from seeing and BEING with your family member has been long. We want to be sure to be transparent and know there is so much good that is going on campus – much of which isn't covered each week in this communication.

Please know that you can call ANYTIME about your family member and, provided that we can share information with you, staff will certainly let you know how things are going with your family member here.

We cannot share, as you know, any information about who, how someone else is doing, which staff, which floor, etc. due to privacy reasons. I know and trust that you respect that.

IF your resident is one that tests positive, our nursing staff will be in touch with the resident (if appropriate) and family, if the resident so desires. If there is a Durable POA, that person would get the call. As great as it would be, we do not have the staff resources to call all families and tell them there is a negative result, but again, you can certainly call the floor nurse or Nurse Manager.

Speaking of Nurse Managers, we are pleased to share that Mary Simpson, RN, has joined our team as the 3rd and 4th floor Nurse Manager. Sherry Wagner continues to be Nurse Manager for 2nd floor of the health center. Dianne Lyon continues to be the Nurse Manager for the CBRF and RCAC.

Despite our patio visits being on hold for now, due to the cases, we continue to do the virtual visits with families. Additionally, there are MANY things that happen every day that add fun! Wine and cheese; root beer floats and movies, special games, music and music therapy, and the list goes on. Residents are engaged and we become more and more of a family together.

We have a thorough plan with Phases to move through. Unfortunately, we have “returned to GO” and are starting back with many more of the limitations that we started with. Again – all of these steps are being done to ensure safety and health. We are also adjusting our delivery times for drop offs (excluding laundry). We will now be delivering to the residents all items that are dropped off at the front at 11:00am and 4:00pm. Items can be dropped off at any time but please keep in mind that we do not have staff readily available to deliver said items so that is why we have decided to add the two delivery times. These times are both around meal times so we still encourage you to bring treats for your loved ones. As a reminder, if you are dropping off perishable items to use the phone located on the wall to call a staff member that way it is not sitting.

We know that different nursing homes and assisted livings are in different phases. Each have unique situations. We appreciate your trust – and your willingness to ASK when you have concerns and questions.

We strongly encourage families to continue to sign up for video chats. Also, if you need a quick update of our facility you can call our campus communication hotline at 335-4599. If you have more specific questions related to your resident – please contact the floor nurse and or Nurse Manager.

Please stay safe; socially distance, and follow all recommended practices to help stop the spread.

Thank you,

Mari Beth Borek

Mari Beth Borek, NHA
Campus Administrator