

December 10, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Each week I continue to send an update as to the status of COVID-19 here at the Samaritan Campus. These are sent via email and also posted on the website:

[www.co.washington.wi.us/departments.imal?mdl=departments.mdl&ID=SAM](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/departments.imal?mdl=departments.mdl&ID=SAM)

*The county website is under new construction – so please watch for future enhancements and changes in the address!*

As we head into the holiday season we can take a moment to reflect on 2020 and how it has been anything but normal. It has been nine months since we found ourselves at the beginning of this pandemic and it seems unrelenting with cases being at an all-time high across the nation.

Despite these adversities, we appreciate your support and understanding as we've worked to manage the ever-changing regulatory environment that COVID-19 has delivered. Your ongoing assistance is appreciated more than ever as we proceed into the next few weeks. The thank you notes, calls and gifts to our Staff Appreciation Fund have sincerely warmed the hearts of all of our staff.

Christmas, and the New Year holidays are times that we often associate with *togetherness* and *community*. This typically includes spending physical time with our loved ones and appreciating each other's company.

This year looks significantly different as we continue to work to keep our residents and staff as safe as possible.

In-person visits continue to not be allowed based on the current and ongoing state and federal guidelines. We are continuing to facilitate virtual visits as well as window visits (YES – the tents are heated and decorated to TRY to make this as best as possible. We have a new intercom option (or the cell phone) which has improved the ability for conversations.



Currently, both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor window visits and beautician/barber visits are temporarily suspended due to an additional case on 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 in total) and one case on 4. To date, all other resident tests have been negative. (Data is current to mid-day 12/10/20) We know that this is a disappointment for our residents and for you as families – but we are needing to limit the potential transmission by once again, limiting movement about the facility.

CBRF, RCAC and Floor 2 visits (for those not quarantined) may continue with window visits at this time.

For our staff precautions, staff are quarantined for a 14-day period of time, if symptomatic. If they test positive, they are not allowed back for a minimum of ten days and must be symptom free for 24 hours. For resident admissions they are quarantined for a 14-day period of time as well. Admissions are and may be limited based on the location of any positive cases.

We continue to test staff twice a week and residents weekly or when exhibiting symptoms. We are being extremely vigilant yet know that the community spread continues. We had two additional staff test positive with this week's testing. Staff education continues at a high level.

As we end this year, we are hopeful that we'll be able to enter into our new normal in the near future, which will include more personable visitations. The progress reported with the COVID vaccine as it enters into its final phases of review has been reassuring, it will serve as a valuable tool in being able to combat this deadly virus. Information continues to be updated. Below are two links that may be helpful for all.

Until then, we will continue to make efforts to provide the feeling of *togetherness* and *community* by continuing to keep you informed of facility updates.

<https://leadingagewi.org/media/92911/qa-covid-19-vaccine-for-paltc-patients-family-member-and-staff-12-1-20-final.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

I mentioned a few weeks ago that I was approached by one generous family to create a "Staff Appreciation Fund" for a way to say thank you to our staff. As I have shared this information, the last few weeks many of you have generously added to this! Thank you!! Within the next week, I will be able to make sure that each of you is thanked and share what we will be doing with these funds – BECAUSE of you!!

If you would care to be a part of this – please consider a gift to this fund. We will share your thanks with the staff. Please send donations to Samaritan – with a memo "Staff Appreciation Fund". Based on the amount, we will be happy to continue to uplift staff with other ways of appreciation.

As always, please do not hesitate to call. Our commitment is to be transparent and as informative as possible. Our main number (262-335-4500) will connect you with someone who can best help.

Thank you for helping hold each other up during these challenging days and months.

We give thanks for *togetherness* and *community* (albeit in a very different way this year)!

Sincerely,

*Mari Beth Borek*

Mari Beth Borek, NHA  
Campus Administrator