

December 4, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Information for us can change monthly, weekly, daily and some days even hourly. As I share this weekly letter with you, please know that this is a time of rapid change – particularly around testing and the upcoming vaccine.

I am including two attachments, one from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and one from CVS Pharmacy; the pharmacy that will be distributing vaccines to both staff and residents once these are ready to roll out. The pharmacy document has information that is both applicable for us as a facility, as well as some general information about the vaccine process.

I am including these for your reference, knowing that they are quite clinical. However, I would prefer that families and residents have the same information that we are working off of to make decisions now and in the future.

Each week I continue to send, via email and posting on our website:

[www.co.washington.wi.us/departments.aml?mdl=departments.mdl&ID=SAM](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/departments.aml?mdl=departments.mdl&ID=SAM) . The Washington County website is being redeveloped, so this link will get you to our up to date information for the Campus. The previous samaritancampus.com is not in working order right now. For informational purposes, we will be sending out notifications more frequently if there are resident cases.

This morning we received notice that one of our residents tested positive and is exhibiting symptoms. All residents and staff were tested on Tuesday of this week. We are awaiting a significant number of results but have had one staff person so far come back positive from Tuesday's testing.

With an abundance of caution, we just completed a rapid screen on all residents and staff that work that respective area. All have come back negative.

To date COVID cases on campus are: 30 staff cases, 9 resident cases and one resident death.

Washington County continues to be considered a “red” county – indicating that the numbers of COVID cases are high. This continues to limit indoor visitation, however, we are broadening, as we can, the compassionate visits for our residents as deemed by the social workers.

We know how important the holidays are to all of us. The inside and outside of the campus are in the full bloom with decorating. Residents today were doing some early baking and decorating of Christmas cookies. For more artistic activities, glittered stocking decorations were one of the projects yesterday.

The community has been wonderful so far! Beautifully wrapped boxes and gift bags have been dropped off - awaiting personal delivery to our residents - from Santa himself!

It's not the same – we know that. Window visits continue to happen M-F both in the morning and afternoon. We have a new speaker that helps with a clearer connection between the outside heated tent and the inside area where our residents are. If you, as a family, want to bring Christmas gifts for opening during that visit, please do! Place the gift on the cart in between the glass doors. Staff will take it from there and share it with the resident during their window visit.

We have had openings, almost every day, so if you want to call the main receptionist after 8am 262-335-4500, we will work to accommodate you as best as we are able. Virtual visits continue everyday as well. Share a Christmas carol when you call; talk about favorite recipes that you may be made together or secret gifts that are under the tree. Help your family engage with you in this holiday season.

Please continue to share calls, cards, gifts, pictures and holiday decorations with the residents here. We will do our best to help with those holiday touches. Children's handmade greeting cards and pictures continue to be a great hit!

One of our families has generously started a Staff Appreciation Fund. If you would like to add to this fund, that would be greatly appreciated. The dollars will be used toward a staff gift for each staff member (shhhhhh – they are long sleeved shirt!) and perhaps special treats that can be shared throughout the Season and year. I have to say – that in my 40 years of working in aging services, I have never seen staff work as hard and continual for the health and wellbeing of those we are lucky enough to care for. I am very proud of being a part of this very dedicated team.

As always, please do not hesitate to call. Our commitment is to be transparent and as informative as possible.

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

We continue to look to celebrate life and family – together.

Sincerely,

*Mari Beth Borek*

Mari Beth Borek, NHA  
Campus Administrator

Attachments (2)