

June 17, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members of Samaritan Campus,

In the last two weeks I shared with you that we, at Samaritan Campus, would be doing facility wide baseline testing of residents.

Last Wednesday, our Director of Nursing and our Education and Infection Control Coordinator tested 119 residents within the programs of the Samaritan Health Center and the Fields DBRF and RCAC.

As of last week Wednesday (again a point in time) – all 119 residents tested negative for Covid-19.

Staff and residents are to be commended for continuing to be vigilant with the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand hygiene and social distancing. All these interventions are key to helping us stay healthy and void of COVID-19.

As we all know, this virus and overall situation continues to be a fluid one.

Today the Washington/Ozaukee Health Dept. dropped their Order relative to nursing home and assisted living visitors. Below is the link to the press release.

http://www.washozwi.gov/Portals/WashOzHealthDept/6_17_20%20Lifed%20Orders%20and%20Updated%20Guidance%20Press%20Release.pdf

Several families have called as they have seen this press release or heard this on the news. We affirm the excitement, **however**, we, as long term care facilities, still need to follow the CDC and WI Department of Health Services guidelines which remain in effect (see below). <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/ltc.htm>

Restrictions on visitors:

- *Facilities should restrict all visitors and nonessential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life scenario. Facilities should notify potential visitors of the need to defer visitation until further notice (through signage, calls, letters, etc.).*
- *In compassionate care situations, visitors will be limited to a specific room only. Facilities should require visitors to perform hand hygiene and use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face masks. Decisions about visitation during an end-of-life situation should be made on a case-by-case basis, which should include careful screening of the visitor (including clergy, bereavement counselors, etc.) for fever or respiratory symptoms.*

- *Individuals with symptoms of a respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat) should not be permitted to enter the facility at any time (even in end-of-life situations)*
- *Visitors that are permitted to enter must wear a face mask while in the building and restrict their visit to the resident's room or other location designated by the facility. Facilities should also remind visitors to frequently perform hand hygiene, especially after coughing or sneezing.*

The states are required to complete Infection Control surveys within all nursing homes by July 31, 2020. Data continues to be collected and analyzed and we take our guidance on infection control from these factors. The concern continues to be to protect the most vulnerable.

We, at Samaritan, are working on several phases for visitations that we hope to be able to implement on an interim basis. I anticipate that I will be able to share those plans with you next week.

Please know that we understand your concerns and strong desire to see family members. Please also uplift the fact that all of our residents, our most vulnerable, are free from this life altering virus.

As always, please call if questions. Please also see all communications that have been provided to you on the website: samaritancampus.com

With thanks,

Mari Beth Borek

Mari Beth Borek, NHA
Campus Administrator