

October 2, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

We send you this weekly letter to provide the most current information to you in regards to policies, testing, and test results. We want to be as transparent as possible while still abiding by our privacy standards. For the most current up to date information you can call our Campus Communication Hotline at 335-4599. This recorded line gives you the most recent updates regarding results and new things that are happening at Samaritan.

Last week we had testing on Tuesday for staff and residents and Friday for staff only. All residents came back negative for COVID-19 and we had 2 additional cases reported from our staff. These were determined to be contracted from outside sources not at Samaritan.

This week we had testing on Tuesday for staff and residents again and on Friday for staff only. We have not received all of the results back but so far all residents have been negative and we did have one additional staff member that was positive. Weekly testing will continue for our residents and twice weekly testing will continue for our staff.

Currently, we are using three types of tests. Two of them are “rapid tests” which give results within 15 minutes and the other test is a lab test which is sent to a lab for results. The lab test has been shown to be more accurate but can have a longer turn-around time of 48-72 hours. Starting next week instead of sending our tests to Madison, like we have been, we will now be sending our tests to a Milwaukee lab to receive our test results. The state of Wisconsin has reassigned several long term care facilities to different labs in hopes to decrease our turn-around times for faster results.

In regards to visitations, I do not have a solid update for you at this time. We are continuing to follow the State and Federal guidelines that have been put in place. Visits can resume when our results come back negative for at least 14 days. With us experiencing our first (of many) frosts this morning we know colder weather is nipping at our heels; we are working on a couple different plans to be able to resume these visits in a safe and weather proof manner. We are all very anxious to resume visitation, so our goal is to be ready as soon as we get the “all clear!”

Again, thank you for all of your support through these trying times. We know that is this is hard for staff, residents and families but we will get through this and come out stronger together.

Thank you,

Mari Beth Borek

Mari Beth Borek, NHA
Campus Administrator