

October 30, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

I am including some very important information at the end of this letter from the Southeast Region Local Health Departments relative to this current surge in COVID-19 cases. It is a very vital CALL TO ACTION for all of us!

In the midst of this statewide surge, we continue to test staff twice weekly and residents weekly (or more often if symptomatic). We have the majority of Tuesday's results and we had **1 additional staff member and 1 positive resident**. We have made some adjustments on 2nd floor with a moveable "wall" to identify a RED zone, YELLOW zone and GREEN zone. We are using enhanced PPE in both the yellow and red zones, based on clinical needs and quarantine status for residents (due to new admission; potential exposure or diagnosis.)

We will continue with testing twice a week until Washington County's positivity rate lowers under 10%. Currently, the positivity rate is 14.5% which still prohibits us from doing more than our window visits. Unfortunately, this County number continues to grow. Please help!

Despite the growing numbers in Wisconsin and Washington County, Samaritan Campus has been very fortunate – with having only 5 positive resident cases (2 of which who came from the hospital). All have been asymptomatic. We have had several staff test positive and over 98 instances where we have had staff do a 10-14-day quarantine based on actual or potential exposure. We are being VERY cautious to protect our residents and each other!

Visitors who wish to have a window visit with their loved one can **call the front desk at 335-4500 to set up a time**. The times are **Monday-Friday at 10:30am and 3:30pm**. Each visit is 30 minutes long. Feel free to call daily to see if there are any same day unused visit slots available.

Window visits are held on ground floor – inside the patio gates for the family members and inside the building for the residents. **Nursing Home visitors are encouraged to park up by the east entrance of the back patio**. Families are asked to please bring a cellphone as that is the best way to communicate when talking through the window. Families will be given a phone number to call and staff will assist the residents on the inside of the building. RCAC residents and families will use the RCAC entrance doors – again with the glass separation. RCAC visitors can use the Fields RCAC driveway (east of the main Samaritan Campus Entrance) and park in the parking spots right by the entrance.

Please dress accordingly. We have set up partitions to hopefully help with the cold and wind. Families will be under cover – but still outside and masks must be worn.

Please feel free to read the earlier communications on our website at: www.samaritancampus.com.

We also provide weekly updates on our Campus Communication Hotline **262-335-4599** this is typically updated twice a week, usually on Tuesday and Friday.

As always, if you have questions, please call. Thank you for supporting all of us here.

Mari Beth Borek

Campus Administrator

Southeast
Regional



Southeast Region Local Health Departments

Cudahy Health Department	North Shore Health Department
Central Racine County Health Department	Oak Creek Health Department
Franklin Health Department	Racine City Health Department
Greendale Health Department	South Milwaukee/St Francis Health Department
Greenfield Health Department	Walworth County Division of Public Health
Hales Corners Health Department	Washington Ozaukee Health Department
Kenosha County Health Department	Wauwatosa Health Department
City of Milwaukee Health Department	West Allis Public Health Department

**Wisconsin Southeast Region Health Alert & Call to Action:
Do Your Part, Stop the Spread**

October 29, 2020- You have the power. Take action now. Do your part to stop the spread. The health departments across southeast Wisconsin urgently state that we have reached a critical level of the pandemic. Southeastern Wisconsin is currently experiencing critically high levels of COVID-19 and significant spread in our communities. Your help is necessary to reduce the spread and to protect our families, our friends, and our community.

We must continue to take personal responsibility to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Even though not all of us experience a severe case of the virus, we all risk getting the virus and spreading it to others – maybe without realizing we're sick. Taking extra precautions now will allow our schools to stay open, our businesses to remain operational, and it helps us all to protect our most vulnerable relatives and neighbors from the effects of COVID-19.

Given this surge, local health department efforts to control the spread of the virus have become increasingly strained. Demand has exceeded local public health capacity to effectively identify cases and conduct case investigation and contact tracing. In response to the surge in COVID-19 positive cases, local health departments will be prioritizing disease notification and investigation over contact notification. While we will continue to do our best to notify and investigate everyone with a positive result and to inform those who may have been exposed to a positive individual, additional prioritization is needed due to the volume of new positive cases. Additionally, the lack of notification, disease investigation and contact tracing capacity may result in delayed notification and fewer attempted follow-ups by the health department.

Here is how you can do your part to stop the spread:

Individuals who test positive, we need you to do the following:

- Stay home and isolate for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset per [these instructions](#). If you did not have symptoms and were tested, remain isolated for 10 days from the date of testing.
- You can return to work or school on day 11 if meeting the criteria (free of fever and improvement in other symptoms for 24 hours).
- Notify your employer or school.
- Notify your [close contacts](#) and ask them to quarantine for 14 days from the last day of contact with you with these [instructions](#).

Employers, what you need to know:

- Due to increased numbers of cases, health departments may rely on cases to directly report their COVID-19 positive status to their employers.
- Please discuss the return to work date with your employee by using the isolation release flyers:
 - [Symptomatic](#)
 - [Asymptomatic](#)

Additional information for businesses and employers can be found [here](#). In order to keep our business, schools, and economy open and keep our health care infrastructure intact, we are urging everyone take immediate action now to slow the spread.

Act Now – Stop the Spread

Please continue to follow all recommended preventive actions to slow the spread of disease:

- Physically distance at least 6 feet from people with whom you do not live.
- Wear a cloth face covering, unless unable to wear one for medical reasons.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Stay home as much as possible, especially if you are sick. If symptomatic, get tested, and stay home while awaiting results.
- Cooperate with public health officials if you have tested positive or are a close contact.
- **Businesses and community organizations** use [WEDC Guidelines](#). When possible encourage remote work opportunities to support physical distancing.
- **Retail, Hospitality, Restaurants/Bars:** To the extent possible, limit person to person contact and encourage curbside pick-up/delivery options. Require masking/face coverings of staff and customers.
- **Gatherings:** Gatherings with individuals outside of your household are not recommended at this time, including but not limited to bonfires, cookouts, sleepovers, weddings, golf outings, recreational leagues, and celebrations. Avoid unnecessary activities and travel within the community that puts you in contact with others.

For more information, please visit the COVID-19 page at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>