

September 11, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

As we remember today the lives lost in our history this day 19 years ago, we know that as we pull together, we can work through even the most difficult of challenges. We hope sincerely that we work through these current challenges and be granted patience, wisdom and flexibility needed to get through these times.

We send this letter as a weekly communication to families and residents of what is happening on our Campus related to testing, change in procedures, and fun upcoming events. All previous weekly communications can be found at: samaritancampus.com

We continued with our testing this week, on Wednesday. We received about a third of our results back at this point - and so far they all have been negative. For last week's testing (September 2nd) we are happy to report that all came back negative for Covid-19. **This gives us hope** to what the future holds with things such as activities, communal dining, "patio visits", and beautician/barber services.

Based on recommendations from Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) nursing homes are instructed to be "covid free" for 28 days from the last know positive case, either staff or resident, before entering their next stage of reopening. Because we had a positive case a few weeks ago, we needed to revert back to Phase One. (Cumulatively we have had two resident cases and six staff testing positive since March.)

If we continue – hopefully – to have negative results, we are looking at the week of the 21st for allowing "patio visits" and beautician services to return. These may look slightly different than we have done in the past because as we all know mother nature can be unpredictable on a day to day basis. We are working on plans now so that we are ready with some type of weather accommodating location (with heat!)

New guidance has been put out by CMS, based on county risk, that if a nursing facility is in a HIGH positivity county that testing must take place twice a week whether there are active positive cases or not within the facility. Based on that, we will be testing our staff every Tuesday and Friday until we are no longer considered a high risk county based on county statistics. Testing does not include residents unless we receive a positive result or a resident is showing symptoms. That will be a good thing for our residents.

We hope you are continuing to use the services we are currently providing like our front lobby drop off, video chats, and our **Communication Hotline at 335-4599**. If you have any questions regarding any of these services, please give us a call or send us an email and we will be happy to help!

As always, thank you for your support.

Mari Beth Borek

Mari Beth Borek, NHA
Campus Administrator