

September 18, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Each week this communication builds on previous communications, as well as it tries to capture the fluid changes of the week. 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** where we disclose test results and upcoming plans for Samaritan.

Federal guidelines now look at a County “positivity rate” to determine the frequency of testing staff in each long term care facility. The positivity rate for Washington County (Yes – we are all in this together!!) dictates that we now need to be testing staff twice weekly. As of this week that has started. We are doing two types of testing; the nasal swab and a new Federally provided Point of Care which is a rapid test (and also a nasal swab).

Ideally we are to receive the test results within 48 hours. The timing of receiving results has taken a little bit longer due to the lab.

As of 1:30 this afternoon, we have not received all of the results from Tuesday’s tests but so far we do know we have several positive cases amongst ancillary staff. None of these are direct care staff in the skilled care.

That being said we will continue with the twice a week testing for all staff members and will be testing all residents once next week as well.

With heavy hearts this does mean we are dropping back to our Phase I of reopening. This means we will not be moving forward with beautician services, communal dining, or patio visits in the upcoming weeks. We know this is not easy for families but we are doing everything in our power to provide the best resident care and protect the most vulnerable population.

On a positive note, CMS realizes that not allowing family visits is not a long term solution for families and the elderly population. We have received some early guidance that we, along with the State are working through. They are looking at “essential family” visits and what requirements this entails. Quality of life is something that is being looked into more and more each day and we hope to have more information in the upcoming weeks. It is indeed a delicate balance with quality of life and the health and safety of our residents and staff.

A reminder to all families dropping off items in our front drop off location (the red shopping cart). We will be delivering items at **11:00am and 4:00pm Monday-Friday**. We are adjusting our **weekend delivery times to 11:00am and 3:00pm**.

You are more than welcome to drop off items at any time but with staff having multiple priorities it works best to have set delivery times. That being said, if you are dropping off perishable items please make sure staff is aware that these were dropped off. If you do not see someone through the glass door, please use the phone to call a staff member to pick-up items by dialing 4500.

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