

May 8, 2020

To All Samaritan Campus Residents and Families,

It has been about a week and a half since I last sent a note out to all of you. This one is coming by way of a paper copy that is included in all of the billings as well as through email and posting. Other communications have come to you via email (for those of you who have shared those) and also posted on our website (www.samaritancampus.com). Please feel free to check out past communications on the website.

The emails and website are our most efficient way of getting information to you. Going forward I will be providing information to you at least weekly by email and the website. If we, at Samaritan, have a positive case of COVID-19 I will be using these two methods to be sure that you have the information quickly.

At this time, we continue to not have any cases – either in staff or residents.

Going forward, we have received guidance that information about any positive case needs to be shared by 5 PM the following day to residents and families. We report to the Health Department and to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This data is available to you and to the public. When you look at the data, please know that there may be “outbreaks” that are identified throughout communities. An outbreak is defined as ONE or more residents or ONE or more staff.

We continue to feel very fortunate that we all are staying healthy. We continue to encourage staff to be “safer at home” and adhere to social distancing – both for themselves and for the sake of our residents. We have been providing ongoing education to all our staff. We have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment and, through the generous donations of many community members, we have cloth masks that non-direct care staff and residents are using everyday.

We continue to screen everyone, every time they come into the building. We continue to have restrictions that only staff are allowed in or someone deemed essential (physician, fire safety inspection, limited repair personnel).

The Governor has created the means for all nursing home residents and staff to be tested for COVID-19. The strategy that has been explained is that there are positive cases where people have not been showing symptoms. We are in the process of exploring how, if and when we do this. Our Medical Director will be a part of these discussions. We will be sure to keep you informed.

If one of our residents is at end of life, we feel it is very important that family has an opportunity to say good-bye and share their love. We have procedures to ensure that as a family member comes in, they and others around them are protected with PPE. If the resident condition changes, our staff is in touch with family and will review the procedures that we need to follow – and to allow all that we can to help both resident and family.

Mother's Day is only a few days away. We know that this holiday makes it even more difficult to not be able to see each other and deliver the message of mom's importance to her in person. (Father's Day is coming up too!) We know that as time goes on, it becomes harder and harder to not see each other. We are excited that many of you have been using Zoom or Facebook Messenger to "see" each other and talk! It helps somewhat! We are exploring all the options that may be possible so that we can create more ways to connect and still stay safe.

Each card, package, piece of bakery, grandchild's drawing has been delivered timely and shared with your loved one. Staff have been very very busy with ensuring that residents are engaged and active. Staff have always been "family" but we honestly feel more like family now through this crisis. We are sharing many conversations, organizing closets, helping with calls, making deliveries and even doing resident hair! We laugh together and cry together, we share stories and hugs and continue to talk about how this crisis is affecting each of us across the globe.

We have been so appreciative of your notes and calls of support and community support as a whole. Thank you for trusting that we are all in this together and will do everything that we can to ensure that we are there for you as family – and always here for those we serve at Samaritan Campus. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Thank you,

Mari Beth Borek

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Campus Administrator