



A National Lutheran Community

To: All Health Center residents and family members and team members

From: Kyle Hreben, Executive Director

Date: December 31, 2021

Subject: Health Center Path Forward Update

Memorandum

Happy New Year to you! On the last day of 2021, I continue to stand in admiration of the path forward that we have taken throughout this year. Our team members' efforts throughout 2021 have resulted in greater resident engagement opportunities, expanded visitation for family members and friends and stronger collaboration among our entire team.

As we planned for the post-holiday season, we recognized that we were likely to see an increase of positive COVID-19 cases, just as being seen in the greater community. In Montgomery County, testing data is showing positivity ratings of more than 10 percent, which is the highest it has been since June 2020. We have continued our weekly team member testing, taking a proactive approach to identifying asymptomatic cases as quickly as possible. Additionally, we have continued to test all residents in the Health Center to detect positive cases as early as possible.

With the conclusion of this week's testing, we have seen an increase in our COVID-19 cases among team members as well as residents on the second and third floors. Most of these positive cases are asymptomatic or are exhibiting mild cold-like symptoms. There are currently no positive resident test results in the Assisted Living neighborhood. As a reminder, specific data regarding the current impact of COVID-19 on our community is on the [Path Forward](#) page of our website.

With the increase of positive resident cases and with guidance from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), we have re-assigned one section of the third floor as our COVID-19 positive area. All residents who test positive for COVID-19 will be temporarily transferred to this area during their 10-day quarantine period. Additionally, we are taking great efforts to designate team members to this area. As always, the resident's primary contact will be informed of this temporary transfer.

Recognizing that the CDC has recently updated their quarantine protocols to five days, MDH and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services provided guidance that we should continue following a conservative 10-day approach for team members returning to work and residents returning to their regular rooms.

As we navigate through our staffing challenges created through the increase in positive team member cases, we are working closely with agency staffing of our clinical positions. As the contracted service providers report for their shift, they are tested prior to working each shift.

At this time, we continue with in-person visitation. However, we cannot stress the importance of following all visitation guidelines. It is crucial that guests not visit if they are exhibiting any cold, flu or allergy symptoms. Guidelines for visits can also be found [here](#).

Thank you in advance for your partnership and confidence in The Village at Rockville. On behalf of our team, we wish you a Happy New Year and may 2022 bring you peace, health and happiness.