

**ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:**

Today we are sending an update for the staff testing done yesterday. We identified 2 cases of COVID-19 with the rapid testing we did on staff. One of these staff had no symptoms and the other came to be tested in their car as they were experiencing minor symptoms. These tests were followed up with the PCR tests that go to Mayo and we do not have those results at this time. We are also waiting on the results from all of the resident/tenant tests completed yesterday. At this time we have a total of 12 staff out of work. Of those 12, 10 are COVID positive. Others have either a high risk exposure or symptoms and are awaiting results.

We have 2 assisted living tenants that remain in isolation due to positive results last week. We are very happy to say they are not experiencing any symptoms or have mild symptoms at this time. ***Next week we will begin twice per week testing for staff. Staff will be testing on Monday's and Thursday's.*** Residents/tenants will be tested one time per week on Thursday's.

While essential care visits are allowed to continue per CMS guidelines, we are asking you to refrain from visiting. If you feel you need to visit at this time please call ahead to arrange a visit. Community transmission rates are higher than they have ever been and we ask that you find other ways to connect with your loved one. As we move through the weeks ahead we all need to do our part to slow the progression of this virus.

We do not want anyone leaving this facility unless it is an absolute must. "This virus does not care that it is a holiday". We do not take this lightly and want to protect everyone we care for. Eating and drinking around others without a face covering is a high risk activity. We also recommend staff **do not** get together with members outside of their immediate family setting. As per direction of the Minnesota Department of Health, if a resident or tenant goes out to a social gathering we will be placing them on a 14 day quarantine upon return. This means staff will need to wear full PPE to enter that room, the resident/tenant is not to leave their room/apartment for 14 days. We will then monitor them for any symptoms of COVID-19. This is a burden to our staff that is already stretched thin and causes increased social isolation for the resident/tenant. We go through a very large amount of PPE for anyone in a quarantine or isolation situation. It also places our whole facility at increased risk. With the potential for a safe and effective vaccine on the horizon, extra precautions are essential to protect our nursing home residents until a vaccine becomes available.

Although many of us will not be celebrating as we traditionally would, we can still spend this holiday being thankful for the blessings that have helped us through this year. It is through these difficult times that is most important to give thanks for things in life we often take for granted. This year we give thanks for friends and family that we hold so dear, for the tireless dedication of healthcare heroes that have persevered throughout the pandemic, for those around us that have given us strength, and for the resilience that will get us through this challenging time and make us stronger than we were before. We wish you a safe, happy and memorable Thanksgiving.

We will send out a notice as we get the resident/tenant results this week and we ask that you all say a special prayer for favorable results.

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing