

Novel Coronavirus 2020 Testing Update

Dear Family Member/Responsible Party:

Our commitment remains the safety and wellbeing of our residents and staff members as we continue to provide care and education around COVID-19. Recently the Department of Health issued guidelines around mandatory testing to screen for positive or asymptomatic residents/staff. While we have tested a considerable number of residents and staff previously, we wanted to alert you to our commitment to 100% COVID-19 testing as recommended from DOH.

Over the last several months, we have learned a lot about COVID-19. Most importantly, we have learned that our nurses, aides, therapists and others can carry this virus – without showing any symptoms – and at no fault of their own, transmit that virus to other staff members and to our residents. Just as personal protective equipment can help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, widespread, universal testing is another way we can ensure the safety of our residents as well as you and your colleagues. By testing all residents and staff, through the direction of the PA DOH and CDC we may begin to take steps toward relaxing some of the restrictions currently in place – allowing our residents to eat and socialize with friends. It will also help us to establish a baseline ahead of any relaxed visitation policies which would allow our residents to spend time with their family and loved ones for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pennsylvania. While no easing of any of our current restrictions has occurred, our testing will become a key component in determining when those restrictions may be relaxed.

I hope this new testing policy will help to give you and your family peace of mind as we all work to ensure a safe and healthy environment for your loved one. Thank you for your continued support, well wishes and communication.