



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

Oct. 9, 2020; 1:30 p.m.

- **First, the GOOD news:**

Residents & Staff at Geneva's Richard Home Receive Negative Test Results

I am pleased to report that all of the Marklund Richard Home staff and residents who went through **two rounds of testing** for the COVID-19 virus have received negative test results. Based on these results and our meeting all other requirements, we are hopeful that the Richard Home will move back to Phase 2 of the Illinois' Long Term Care facilities reopening plan by Oct. 16, and Phase 3 by Oct. 31, if there are no additional positive cases.

- **Now, the not-so-good news:**

New Positive Cases at Geneva's Tommy and Sayers Homes

We received notification this morning that a staff member who works at both the Tommy Home (MTH) and Sayers Home (MSH) on the Geneva campus and a resident of MTH have tested positive for Coronavirus. The staff member's last shift was Tuesday night. The resident was tested after presenting a fever on Wednesday. That individual, only our second positive resident case since March, has no other symptoms. Per IDPH requirements, we have already completed contact tracing and identified those employees who will need to be tested in addition to all of the residents at both MTH and MSH. We have enough kits on hand to test all 32 residents today, and are working with the lab to get additional kits delivered ASAP for the staff. These cases will move MTH and MSH back to Phase 1, restricting visits to being virtual only, modifying group activities, and having limited communal dining.

- **Additions Made to Modified Temporary Absence Policy**

The Human Resources Department has updated the Modified Temporary Absence Policy to include, among other things, a new requirement regarding staff informing their supervisor if their physician requires a COVID-19 test for anything other than screening for scheduled procedures. In addition, if a staff member undergoes a COVID-19 test, they will not be able to come into work and will need to quarantine until the results are available. The updated policy will be emailed to all employees.

- **A Note about In-Person Visitation Requirements:**

The vast majority of parents/guardians have been respectful of the IDPH rules that we are enforcing regarding visitation. But, I have received information about verbal abuse and intimidation by a few toward Marklund staff who are simply doing their jobs. This will not be tolerated at any time.

Any parent/guardian who violates our visitation policy, particularly with regard to social distancing and mask wearing, will be given a warning, and then the next time it happens, will have their visitation rights suspended. If we have already seen this behavior in the past, the visitors will be given a verbal warning before their next visit. Marklund staff is looking out for the health and safety of all residents and therefore we will not accept any type of aggression.

If anyone wishes to speak to me regarding our policy, please feel free to call or email me directly at 630-593-5476 or gfonger@marklund.org.

Thank you,

GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO

630-593-5476 or gfonger@marklund.org.