



## Important Update re: COVID-19

*from Gil Fonger, President & CEO*

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- **New guidance loosens some restrictions**

I am happy to share that IDPH has (finally) updated its guidelines regarding testing, quarantining, visitation, distancing/mask wearing. These new IDPH guidelines, which we are expected to follow, are based on updated recommendations by the CDC.

The following among the highlights announced that will affect Marklund:

**Outbreak testing** remains the same, regardless of vaccination status. If a site goes into Outbreak Status, ALL staff/residents must be tested.

**Surveillance Testing** – If a Marklund site requires surveillance testing because of county positivity rate, **fully vaccinated staff do not have to be tested; however, unvaccinated staff are still required to do so.**

**Staff Gathering**—Vaccinated staff can eat together/have meetings without wearing masks and social distancing. However, if an unvaccinated staff member is present, everyone needs to wear masks and unvaccinated staff must maintain 6 feet from others.

**Visitation** (this is for both indoor and outdoor visitation):

**No need to prescreen visitors 24 hours in advance;** just at the time of visit.

**If the resident is fully vaccinated,** they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitors.

**When the resident and all of their visitors are fully vaccinated,** while ALONE in the resident's room or designated visitation area, the residents and visitors can choose to have close contact (including touch) and NOT wear face masks.

**Visitors should wear masks/distance from staff and all other residents** and visitors that are not part of their group at all other times when in the facility.

**When either the resident or any of their visitors are NOT fully vaccinated,** the safest approach is for everyone to distance/wear masks.

If the resident is fully vaccinated they may choose to have close contact, including touch, with unvaccinated visitors **while everyone still wears masks.**

If unvaccinated residents or visitors are in the designated visitation area **ALL residents and visitors should wear masks and maintain at least 6 feet distance.**

**Communal Dining and Group Activities** –

Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining and group activities without use of masks or social distancing.

If unvaccinated residents are involved in either communal dining or activities, **then ALL residents should use masks/social distancing** when not eating and unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least 6 feet from others.

- **Update on Positive Case at Wasmond Center**

Results from a lab test taken on the recent positive staff case at MWC confirmed the positive results. Wasmond Center will remain on Outbreak Status until May 18. The second round of testing of all staff and residents will take place early next week.

Based on the announcement made from Gov. Pritzker’s office yesterday, we are hopeful that we are nearing the end of this pandemic lifestyle that we’ve endured for more than a year. As he mentioned, if case counts and hospitalizations across the state continue to improve, the State will enter the “Bridge Phase” on May 14, and then the final phase by June 11. Just remember, even though the state may move to full reopening, we always need to wait for final guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and IDPH, before we can do so.

Until then, we will continue to do all we can to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

Have a wonderful Mother’s Day weekend.

Regards,

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## CURRENT STATUS PER SITE

	MHH	MVH	MSH	MTH	MDH	MRH	MPC	MWC
<b>IDPH Mitigation Tier</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Visitation</b>	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Indoor, Outdoor & Virtual	Virtual
<b>Current* Positive Residents</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Current* Positive Staff</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Rounds of Testing to be completed</b>	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	n/a Surveillance Testing (once/week)	1

*\*indicates resident or staff member currently isolating for COVID*

*^not a facility-based case*

*-Increased surveillance rate as required by local health department not per CMS guidelines*