



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

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- **Wasmond Center out of Outbreak:**

Great news! After two complete rounds of testing of all residents and staff with no additional COVID-positive results, Marklund Wasmond Center is officially out of Outbreak Status. This means that MWC direct care employees are no longer required to wear N95 masks, just regular surgical masks. Eye protection (face shield or goggles) is also no longer required unless providing care to someone on droplet precaution.

Indoor and outdoor visitation is reinstated, as are outings, group activities, communal dining and beauty/barber services.

Monthly Surveillance Testing of unvaccinated staff will also resume.

I am very happy to share this news. With 75% of our staff vaccinated, we are hopeful to have fewer of these returns to outbreak status. I just want to reiterate that I hope that those who remain unvaccinated reconsider their decision, for their sake, as well as the health and safety of their coworkers and residents, particularly as we hear more news about the COVID variant spreading. Vaccines are very readily available at many pharmacies these days.

- **Change to travel reporting process**

More good news! Due to the reduction of COVID-positivity cases around the country, we will be adjusting the travel reporting section of our Modified Temporary Absence Policy so that fully vaccinated staff no longer need to inform Human Resources when traveling within the United States. **This change will be effective Monday, June 28.**

Unvaccinated staff will still need to report any travel outside of the state of Illinois.

However, with other countries still facing higher COVID-positivity rates, we are still requiring everyone to report any international travel.

So, as a reminder, travel plans must be provided to Lisa Esposito @lesposito@marklund.org prior to going.

Thank you all!

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CURRENT STATUS PER SITE

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

**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