



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

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- **Geneva campus out of Outbreak Status:**

As of today, July 23, the Richard and Van Der Molen homes on the Geneva campus are no longer on Outbreak Status. Fortunately there were no other positive resident or staff cases determined throughout the two rounds of testing. This means going back to wearing regular surgical masks rather than N95s, indoor and outdoor visitation can resume as can resident outings and communal dining.

Of course, we are still following IDPH, CDC and OSHA guidelines and will continue to screen all staff/visitors upon entry, and do monthly surveillance testing for unvaccinated staff.

- **Vaccine questions**

After this most recent positive case among a vaccinated staff member, we've heard that some employees are questioning the reliability of the COVID vaccine itself. In spite of seeing an increase in breakthrough cases around the world, recent statistics indicate that while the vaccine may not completely prevent a person from getting COVID, it is highly successful at preventing serious complications and hospitalizations. The CDC stands by its belief that vaccination is the most important tool to end the COVID-19 pandemic. But that is not enough, which is why we still have protocols like screening, masking and testing to help keep residents and staff safe beyond vaccinations.

Consider this analogy based on the Peltzman Effect offered by *Forbes* magazine: "You can still get infected after being vaccinated, just like you could get injured in a car accident even though you are wearing a seatbelt. **So why take the vaccine?** Because it does reduce the risk of you getting the virus, and more importantly, the risk of dying is significantly reduced."

Again, deciding whether to get vaccinated is a personal decision, which should be respected by others. I hope that those of you who are still on the fence weigh all the facts, especially considering the rising cases of the Delta variant, to help you make the right decision for yourself and your families and friends.

Enjoy your weekend!

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CURRENT STATUS PER SITE

	MHH	MVH	MSH	MTH	MDH	MRH	MPC	MWC
IDPH Mitigation Tier	n/a							
Visitation	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)							

**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