



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

Aug. 11, 2021; 3 p.m.; Issue 109

- **Suspending overnight passes:**

Due to the increase in COVID-19 positivity rates in our area and the concerns over the new Delta Variant, we have decided it is in the best interest of residents and staff to put a temporary hold on all overnight passes for residents. IDPH is requiring long-term-care facilities to quarantine residents for 14 days once they return from an offsite stay that includes an overnight. That would mean keeping the resident in isolation and having staff wear full PPE including N95 masks and eye protection at every interaction with the resident. We felt that this would put a great deal of additional strain on our staff. On-site visits are still being allowed, at this point in time, so please remember to schedule your visits in advance with the facility's QIDP or Administrator.

- **Update to Travel portion of the Modified Temporary Absence Policy:**

Employees should make note of this change to Travel section in the Modified Temporary Absence Policy, which is intended to help staff return to work sooner: Staff who are not fully vaccinated as of their travel date are required to quarantine for 7 days after any out-of-state travel and **return to work for their first scheduled shift on or after Day 8 with a negative test as long as they are asymptomatic.** Please schedule your return COVID test at Marklund **BEFORE** leaving for your travel with the Campus Administrator or DON.

Additional information can be found in the full policy.

- **All counties now at high levels of transmission:**

All three counties in which Marklund has its facilities — Cook, DuPage, and Kane — are now considered to be areas with **HIGH levels** of transmission for COVID-19, much like the rest of the country. A county's level of transmission is based on two metrics: new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people and the positivity rate, both measured over the last seven days. The basic idea is that these show how much virus is spreading around us, which is an important determinant of how much risk you're in.

Please mask up and stay safe,

GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO,
630-593-5476 or gfonger@marklund.org

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