



## Important Update re: COVID-19

*from Gil Fonger, President & CEO*

April 21, 2020 3:00 p.m.

- **NO FURTHER TESTING THIS WEEK**

Effective today, April 21, there are no residents or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 based on any testing. One resident at the Wasmond Center was hospitalized yesterday due to a different condition and was tested due to hospital protocol.

- **COMMUNICATING ABOUT COVID-19**

This past Sunday, April 19, Gov. Pritzker's office released an official guidance regarding communication about COVID-19 cases in Long-Term Care facilities. This notice officially stated that facilities are required to keep residents, next of kin/guardians, and staff notified when a resident or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, without revealing personally identifying information except to the next of kin. The notifications must include verbal and written communications. The facility must also coordinate with local and state health departments. We are pleased to note that this has been Marklund's practice since the pandemic began in Illinois, and have taken the additional step to extend the notification to the families/guardians of the roommates of the residents who had been tested. However, we only do that with the permission of the parent/guardian of the resident who has been diagnosed or is being tested, due to HIPPA regulations.

- **VOLUNTEER WEEK**

This week is National Volunteer Recognition Week. Marklund suspended volunteer visits on March 10, and we—residents and staff—truly miss seeing those who support Marklund and its residents through our Volunteer Program. We want to thank those who have reached out asking how they can help us during this time, and are grateful to the generosity and creativity of so many who have provided food, masks, letters, signs, donations and prayers. We hope to begin seeing them in the coming weeks.

- **EVENT REMINDER**

**The Run, Walk & Roll-Bloomington** set for this Sunday, April 26 has been modified as a **VIRTUAL 5K/1 mile** event. Visit [www.marklund.org/series/5kbloomington](http://www.marklund.org/series/5kbloomington) for details.

Thank you,

**GILBERT FONGER**

President & CEO

**Questions for Gil Fonger? Call him at 630-593-5476 or email [gfonger@marklund.org](mailto:gfonger@marklund.org).**