



## Important Update re: COVID-19

*from Gil Fonger, President & CEO*

Oct. 16, 2020; 12:30 p.m.

- **Additional Positive Cases on Geneva Campus**

Since my last update on Wednesday, there have been 4 additional positive COVID-19 results which were discovered from our testing done as part of the contact tracing process. Two of the cases are staff—one from the Tommy Home (MTH) and one from the Dreher Home (MDH). The other two are residents of MTH, but both are currently asymptomatic.

The bulk of the other test results received this morning have come back negative, with just a couple still outstanding.

The residents who have tested positive are being cared for in isolation and are continuing to do very well, while positive staff are quarantining at home. Our nursing team will continue to contact trace and determine if additional staff need to be tested. All residents at Tommy, Sayers and Dreher homes will be retested as well, as we need to receive two rounds of negative results in order to stop checking.

- **Following Procedures**

This recent uptick in cases is sure to cause concern and anxiety among staff and families/guardians. To try to alleviate concerns, I want to assure everyone that we can be confident in the skill and knowledge of our nursing teams at all Marklund sites to follow all CDC, IDPH, and County Health Department procedures when it comes to contact tracing and testing.

Some staff have expressed concern as to WHY they may need to be tested or why they have not been. Surveillance testing is conducted as part of contact tracing. If you have potentially come into contact with a COVID-positive staff member or resident, or a high-risk environment, testing is required until two consecutive negative tests are confirmed via laboratory testing. Contact tracing for Administrative staff will be evaluated based on the CDC's Close Contact definition (being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more). This does not really apply for direct care since all are tested if they have worked the same shift with an employee or resident who has tested positive.

**Employees will be notified by their supervisor or by a member of the Nursing Department if contact tracing shows a potential exposure situation.**

As a reminder the CDC has reported that 40 percent of all positive cases are asymptomatic. Therefore, we use testing **as a mitigation effort to reduce COVID-19 transmission by early detection of the virus and by identifying asymptomatic positive individuals.**

Thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown our direct care team during this trying time.

Be safe and well.

GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO

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