



This message is going to employees, residents and family members on our community distribution list.

May 22, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members & Employees,

As the scope and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic became apparent, our unrelenting focus has been the health, safety, and welfare of our residents and employees. We quickly organized and engaged all internal resources on this mission and have consistently sought support from external resources as they have been made available to us. Our response efforts are led by the Asbury COVID-19 Incident Command Center (a.k.a. Command Center), comprised of highly dedicated and experienced professionals, working in coordination with the campus clinical and administrative teams.

While the organization and the world learned the characteristics of the new disease, we also strove to develop processes aimed at identifying those residents who were appropriate to test for COVID-19, and worked tirelessly to secure tests as soon as practicable. Further, we implemented comprehensive screening procedures to identify individuals within our workforce who may carry the disease, removed them from service consistent with the guidelines, and referred them to their primary care physicians for further evaluation based on the screening criteria.

Tennessee has called for testing of health care and assisted living residents and employees. As I shared in a communication earlier this week, we have been awaiting testing materials from the TN Department of Health. Sullivan County Department of Health has now informed us they will be sending a team to conduct the testing for Steadman Hill Assisted Living on Tuesday, May 26. We are expecting the Northeast Regional Health Office to provide testing materials so that Health Care Center and Baysmont House (skilled nursing) residents and employees can be tested on June 4th and 5th. Employees who are not tested on those days may be tested at the Hawkins County Health Department. Clinical resources from Asbury Communities in conjunction with Steadman Hill leadership are completing preparations for the testing process.

Results will be first communicated to the employees and residents/resident representatives. Any assisted living residents testing positive will self-quarantine in their personal residence. Any health care residents testing positive will be in special rooms that have been identified in advance with the intent to meet the specific needs of residents with COVID-19. Staff will provide individual support and services following CDC infection control protocols. Employees who test positive will follow physician notification and self-quarantine protocols established by the CDC. Our clinical teams will also conduct internal contact tracing and remain in touch to monitor the progress of these employees, and follow CDC/CMS guidelines regarding the timeline for safe return to work.

Please be aware that the number of pending COVID-19 test results for assisted living residents and employees will fluctuate during this time period. As a reminder, all COVID-19 data is updated daily on the Asbury COVID-19 Response and Communication webpage at [Asbury.org/COVID19](https://www.asbury.org/COVID19).

Additionally, we continue to:

- Follow CDC and CMS guidance, best practices and infection control protocols and procedures
- Restrict visitation and group activities
- Offer virtual social connections for families and loved ones
- Screen residents, employees and essential visitors
- Implement evolving regulations and governmental agency expectations
- Share timely communication with residents, employees and family members

Our top priority will remain the health, safety and welfare of the residents we serve and the employees who fulfill their higher purpose by performing sacred work. We thank you for your support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Aaron Roop
Executive Director

Tammy McKinney
Assisted Living Administrator