



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 is 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 with the state and local health authorities 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.

Following the announcement of the support teams established by Governor Hogan to assist nursing homes contending with COVID-19 infections, and also after the announcement of the delivery of tests from South Korea, we reached out to the state of Maryland and the local health department for tests. We continued our prevention and containment efforts, while the Command Center sought alternate sources for testing. In late April, the Governor called for universal testing of all Maryland nursing home residents and employees.

Throughout the pandemic, residents who met specific criteria for individual testing,

received medical orders and were administered a test for COVID-19 in conjunction with the local health department. The one Health Care resident testing positive was able to recover comfortably in a private room while receiving quality care and support from our team of health care professionals. Additionally, we have established a distinct and specially equipped COVID-19 area in our Health Care Center if the need arises to provide care and support to residents testing positive for the virus. Earlier this week I was contacted by the Maryland National Guard, part of a Maryland support team, to schedule the delivery of testing materials for all Health Care Center residents and Health Care Center associates. Testing will be coordinated and overseen by clinical resources from Asbury Communities.

Early next week, you may see a small team from the Maryland National Guard on the campus. We ask that you avoid the area so the process can be completed as efficiently as possible. Our clinical staff expects to complete the testing by Friday, May 29. Testing during this phase will only be available to Health Care Center residents and employees.

Results will be first communicated to the Health Care Center employees and residents/resident representatives. Any residents testing positive will be moved to the special rooms mentioned above. 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 Health Care Center 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,

*Kelly Smith Friedman, LNHA*

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Executive Director

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