



[Questions](#)

AsburyMethodistVillage.org

This message is going to employees, and to residents and family members who have opted to receive email communications.

May 14, 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 announcement of the support teams established by Governor Hogan to assist nursing homes contending with COVID-19 infections, we reached out to the state of Maryland for testing and other support for the Wilson Health Care Center (WHCC). We were informed that the WHCC was put in a queue and would be advised when the support team is available. 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.

In early May, the Command Center secured an alternative testing source with capacity to test the remaining asymptomatic residents of the WHCC. Clinical resources from Asbury Communities managed the testing process in conjunction with the WHCC leadership. Residents received medical orders and were administered a test for COVID-19. The results were returned over several days with 17 positive cases out of 115 total tests.

Residents testing positive were moved to the special care neighborhood that was identified in advance with the intent to meet the specific needs of residents with COVID-19.

Earlier this week we were notified that a Maryland support team is now available to provide testing for all residents and employees of the WHCC. Again, testing will be coordinated and performed by clinical resources from Asbury Communities in conjunction with the WHCC leadership.

In the next week you may see the Maryland National Guard, who are members of the Maryland support team, on the campus near the WHCC. We ask that you avoid this area so the process can be completed as efficiently as possible. Our clinical staff expects to complete the testing by Wednesday, May 20. Testing during this phase will only be available to WHCC residents and employees.

Results will be first communicated to the WHCC employees and residents/resident representatives. Any additional residents testing positive will be moved to the special care neighborhood. 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 following CDC/CMS guidelines regarding timeline for safe return to work.

Please be aware that the number of pending COVID-19 test results for WHCC residents and employees will fluctuate during this time period. As a reminder, all COVID-19 data is updated twice 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,



Michele Potter
Executive Director



Rachel Karish, NHA
Administrator, Wilson Health Care Center

***Doing all the good we can by providing exceptional
lifestyle opportunities to those we serve.***