



URGENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: Friday August 28, 2020

TO: All Sauk County Health Care Center Community Members

FROM: Jennifer Vosen, Administrator

RE: Update on Status with Positive Case of COVID-19

Dear Sauk County Health Care Center Residents, Staff and Representatives,

Three weeks ago we called to inform you that one of our staff members had tested positive for COVID-19 and discussed all the changes that were being implemented due to this being quantified as a facility outbreak of COVID-19.

Today I am happy to inform you that we continue to have no further positive results. We continue to have no staff or residents presenting with symptoms of COVID and are screening regularly for presence of illness.

As directed by our state and local public health departments, we will continue to perform weekly testing of all staff and residents until further notice. While we updated last week that this round might be our last, new guidance was received from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that requires full completion of outbreak testing as initially directed by our public health partners. Our next round of testing on Monday August 31st will conclude our outbreak testing pending all results are negative. We will continue to follow all direction from our public health partners.

We continue to remain unable to accept new admissions to the facility at this time.

Please know that we have followed, and will continue to do so, all guidance set forth for privacy, resident care, employee safety, and efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 as provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS) and the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). We remain in constant contact with resources to maintain the latest updates from all regulatory and public health providers.

When working directly with residents, all staff are in the appropriate PPE to ensure the risk for transmission of this virus is minimized.

We also conduct a rigorous sanitation regimen that follows, and in some cases exceeds, all state and federal guidelines. We have increased the daily volume of cleaning done in common, medical, and residential areas. All protective and medical equipment are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Although this can be a challenge at times when providing medical care, our facility continues to practice safe distancing guidelines by limiting the number of people in one area and maintaining 6 feet of separation. Doors are shut in common areas to discourage group gatherings.

Sauk County Health Care Center appreciates your understanding as we continue to vigorously enforce the federal, state, and local public health department's decision to restrict all visits into the facility at this time. This is certainly frustrating when wanting to see loved ones, but we want to do everything in our power to keep our residents healthy. We continue to encourage family members to communicate regularly through FaceTime or Skype calls, phone calls, and emails. For more information on scheduling virtual visitation, please contact a member of our activities departments at (608) 524-7540.

Thank you again all for your continued support. We will provide updates to the current situation regularly. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,

Jennifer Vosen, Administrator
(608)524-7501
jennifer.vosen@saukcountywi.gov