



URGENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: Saturday August 8, 2020

TO: All Sauk County Health Care Community Members

FROM: Jennifer Vosen

RE: Positive Case of COVID-19

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

Today, a case of COVID-19, the illness resulting from the novel coronavirus, has been diagnosed in an employee of our facility.

The staff member is in quarantine at home. We have notified public health officials as required and are following procedures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. We are taking every step as recommended by authorities to contain the spread. We want to make residents, their families, and our dedicated staff aware of this situation and reassure everyone that we are on top of it.

Developments are changing day by day, minute by minute. Our focus remains on the health and well-being of our residents and staff in our facility. We must also recognize our team for the concern and commitment they have shown to our residents during this challenging time. Our mission has never been more meaningful.

As the availability of testing increases in our country and state, we expect there will be increased number of cases in our community and facility because this disease especially impacts people who live in communal settings.

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.

Prior to each shift, staff are required to be screened which involves measuring their temperature and answering a series of questions to ensure they are not exhibiting any known COVID-19 symptoms. Any employees who develop symptoms during a shift are immediately sent home. At that point, they are directed to quarantine at home. This process is also followed for outside vendors and agency workers, though these visits have been curtailed.

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

