



Covid-19 Updates for October 8, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Redstone,

We have completed our testing of Independent Living (IL) residents on our Greensburg campus. Our initial round of testing revealed one additional positive test, bringing our total to six IL residents on this campus. We know that this has been a stressful time, especially for our Greensburg IL residents and families.

I want to again review our processes for testing and quarantining residents. While this is of particular interest to our Greensburg residents and families right now, this information may become relevant on our other campuses.

The current situation on our Greensburg campus began when one of our residents presented with symptoms of Covid-19. As is our policy, that resident was tested with a rapid antigen test, which provides results in approximately 15 minutes. It was determined that this resident was positive for the virus. Two additional residents were soon identified as symptomatic, and were also rapid tested with positive results. These residents were immediately asked to quarantine in their apartments. In the case of IL residents, the individual apartment can be designated a “red zone” for quarantine purposes. If symptoms warrant, and in consultation with the resident’s physician, a resident may be transported to a hospital for treatment. As we know, many Covid patients experience minor to moderate symptoms, and are able to recover at home. Those who have tested positive must quarantine for a period of time based on the onset of their symptoms and the resolution of symptoms, the number of days may be different for everyone. If the individual remains asymptomatic the quarantine period is 10 days from the positive test. While residents are quarantined, our team will check on them regularly, collect their trash, deliver their mail, provide laundry service, deliver meals, offer personal shopper service, and a nurse or CNRP will evaluate them daily.

Once we identified these three positive cases, we made the decision to test all of our IL residents in Greensburg. Three additional cases were identified through this testing. Two types of tests were used to test our residents. Residents who had symptoms, or had close contact with one of the positive cases, were rapid tested with the antigen test. The goal is to quickly identify those who are most likely to test positive, and isolate those residents. While the rapid antigen test gives us the benefit of an immediate result, this is not the most reliable form of Covid testing. Therefore, residents who are not exhibiting symptoms and who have not had close contact with a positive case, are tested with the more accurate PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test. This test extends slightly deeper into the nasal cavity, and results take 48 to 72 hours. When a resident or employee is symptomatic, but tests negative with the rapid antigen test, we then follow up with the PCR test as an extra step of caution, to make sure that the negative rapid response was correct.

There are two additional instances in which a resident will be asked to self-quarantine. If a resident is showing signs and symptoms of Covid, they will be asked to self-quarantine until their PCR test results are back and negative. The second situation is when our contact tracing finds that a resident has been in close contact with someone who is positive for Covid-19. Close contact is defined as being within six feet of the positive person, for more than 15 minutes, without wearing medical-grade PPE (surgical face masks and shields.) Those who are determined to have been in close contact will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from the date of the close contact. This 14 day quarantine remains in effect even if the resident’s test

results are negative. This policy is based on CDC guidance. We know that the quarantine is frustrating, but this is the best practice for maintaining the safety of our resident community.

We will be in contact with any residents who test positive, immediately upon receiving these test results. We will also notify residents who are in quarantine of either a positive or negative result. Because of the volume of tests that we are performing, we will not contact other residents who test negative. We will send out a statement (as in these messages) when all test results have been completed, which will serve as confirmation of the negative test results.

Some of you have asked for more details on those who have tested positive. We have a duty to uphold the privacy of our residents and we are unable to provide personal details. We can assure you that those who need to be quarantining are doing so, and presently all of our Covid positive residents are recovering in their own apartments.

During this most recent flare, our positive cases have been with IL residents. Our processes and procedures are different when a case is discovered in one of our personal care homes or the nursing home. In these cases, residents may be transferred to an identified “red zone” to receive care and quarantine. Testing processes and quarantine, however, are quite similar across all levels of care.

I feel like a broken record, but there are some things I need to reiterate. Cases across our region continue to escalate at a frightening pace. Please use every caution. Residents, please make sure that you are wearing your masks when you leave your apartment and practicing social distancing. Families of IL residents, if you are coming to visit or taking a resident in a vehicle off-campus, please wear your masks throughout the visit – even in the car. Please make wise choices about taking your resident family member to restaurants or social gatherings, which frequently are places where exposure occurs. To our families of Greensburg IL residents, we respectfully ask that you NOT visit at this time.

You have heard from us frequently this week. Unless we have more to report, we will skip our Friday message and be back in touch with an update next week. Please keep all of our residents, especially those who are battling Covid-19, in your prayers at this difficult time. Your ongoing love and trust are sustaining us.

Sincerely,

*Vicki*

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