



Covid-19 Updates for September 11, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Redstone,

It's Friday again...but this Friday is different – this Friday we remember the horrific tragedy that struck our country on 9/11/01. Alan Jackson has a song that asks “Where were you when the world stopped turning, that September day?” I was here, at Redstone, at the front desk watching the TV with a few others. I remember watching that plane fly into the second tower and I remember crying when a resident in a wheelchair, Mrs. F., took my hand and said “Why are you crying?” I sat down with her and said “I don't want my children growing up in a world so full of hatred and violence.” She thought a moment and looked me straight in the eye and said “Dear, it's always been a world full of hatred and violence, but you can always find the good, we'll get through this.” She proceeded to tell me about living through a world war, the great depression, poverty that I can't even imagine -- without food to eat for days -- civil unrest, working in the fields as a young girl, etc. Over the years I've thought often of her words and her wisdom. I wonder what Mrs. F. would say to me today, after these months that we've shared together? I think she would remind me again not to give up. I think she'd tell me that we will get through this together. We won't always be stuck behind the masks, and the isolation, and the fear. Our job isn't to give up. And so I hope you'll take a moment today to remember all of lives that were lost on 9/11, and also to look forward with hopefulness and know that this too shall pass.

A few updates for today:

Let's review our numbers. Our testing continues, and right now our positive cases are as follows:

- Murrysville Residents: 0 Cases
- Murrysville Team: 0 Cases
- Greensburg Residents: 0 Cases
- Greensburg Team: 9 Cases
- North Huntingdon Residents: 4 Cases
- North Huntingdon Team: 1 Case
- Redstone@Home Team: 2 Cases
- External Agency: 1 Case

In areas of our buildings where we have had exposure, we are following a weekly testing cycle that will continue until we have 14 days with no new positives in that building. We know that the testing is uncomfortable and worrisome, but it is so important that we ensure that we have no new cases in our buildings.

We've had questions this week about why we don't disclose the identity of those who have tested positive. We have a responsibility to protect the privacy of those individuals and also a responsibility to keep everyone else safe. We do conduct contact tracing when an individual has tested positive for COVID – that means we look at everyone who had close contact and we do notify them of that contact. We also practice “need to know” notification – so if you need to know because of your interaction or potential interaction, we WILL inform you. Otherwise please respect individual privacy and please don't participate in rumors or gossip about who may or may not have been diagnosed with Covid.

We've also had questions about how we define a close contact. A close contact is defined as being within six feet of a person who has tested positive for Covid-19, for more than 15 minutes, with at least one of the persons not wearing a mask. Anyone who falls into that category would be included as a close contact. This reminds us again of the importance of appropriately wearing masks. Not only does your mask protect others, it helps to protect you from exposure. Our employees are also wearing face shields, as an additional layer of protection for our residents.

As a reminder, at this time Independent Living residents on all of our campuses may still host two visitors in their private apartments. Visitors must enter through the front door and be screened before visiting. Because we have had no cases on our Murrysville campus, visitors may still schedule in-person visits for Personal Care/Courtyard and Terrace residents using our visitor website at <https://redstonefamilyvisitscheduler.as.me/schedule.php>. Because of our Covid testing, families for Nursing Home, Personal Care/Courtyard and Garden Level residents in Greensburg may only visit virtually or through a window. Likewise, Personal Care/Courtyard and Terrace level families in North Huntingdon may only visit virtually or through the window. Virtual and window visits may also be scheduled using our visitor scheduling website so that team members will be ready to assist with your visit.

Operations remain normal on our Murrysville campus. In Greensburg Independent Living residents can still visit the dining room, gift shop, and bistro. In North Huntingdon, the dining rooms and gift shop are closed.

Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement that we have received. They do give us hope.

Sincerely,

Vicki

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Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

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