



## Covid-19 Updates for September 18, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Redstone,

I read something on Facebook that I wanted to share with you: “Being positive doesn’t mean you ignore the reality of the situation or sugarcoat what’s happening. It means you don’t let negativity sour things and make them worse” The reality of the last two weeks has been tough. Many of our residents and employees have had to undergo several rounds of Covid testing. We have had to put our in-person visitor program in Greensburg and North Huntingdon on hold. We’ve had to close some of our dining rooms and gift shops, and limit activities and transportation. What you probably do not know is that we also experienced a surprise survey of our nursing home in Greensburg following a complaint to the Department of Health. This survey, while stressful, proved that this complaint was unfounded and our infection control practices are in good order. During all of this, Redstone has shown that our commitment to safety for staff and residents is strong and unwavering; and through all of this we continue to press on. As challenging as these times are, let’s remember to be positive!

I wanted to give you a few updates from our testing process. We are still awaiting some results from both Greensburg and North Huntingdon, but right now our positive test numbers remain the same as last week with one exception. We did have one additional employee test positive in Greensburg, but that employee had not been in the building or worked within a time period that would have exposed anyone else to the virus. Our positive test results to date are as follows:

- Murrysville Residents: 0 Cases (Visitor program remains in place at all levels of care)
- Murrysville Team: 0 Cases
- Greensburg Residents: 0 Cases (Visitors only in Independent Living residences as per the visitor policy)
- Greensburg Team: 10 Cases
- North Huntingdon Residents: 4 Cases (Visitors only in Independent Living residences as per the visitor policy)
- North Huntingdon Team: 1 Case
- Redstone@Home Team: 2 Cases
- External Agency: 1 Case

If when we receive the remaining test results from North Huntingdon and if all results are negative, we can stop testing and begin our reopening plan. As soon as this information becomes available, we will provide it to our North Huntingdon residents and families.

In Greensburg, we will need to test again the week of 9/21. If next week brings all negative test results from employees and residents, we’ll be able to stop the weekly testing and move to the required monthly testing for our team members only. We will also then be able to begin planning for

a reopening on our Greensburg campus. Unfortunately, if we do have another positive case, we will need to continue with our weekly testing. We will provide this information to our Greensburg residents and families when it becomes available.

Some of you have raised questions about contact tracing and the disclosure of those who have tested positive for Covid. I want to reiterate that we are following Department of Health and CDC guidance for contact tracing and exposure, and this does include protecting the identity of the individual who tested positive. If our contact tracing shows that you have been exposed, we will inform you. Please know that we take this very seriously and conduct contact tracing as soon as we have a positive result. Those who are found to have been in close contact will be asked to undergo testing and self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. We also are in close communication with the local health department with all positive results.

Before I close today, I want to say a word about flu shots. This year we have made flu shots a condition of employment for our Redstone team. We think the vaccine is that important. All of the studies and scientific literature are really focused on the importance of flu shots – especially this year. Flu shots are safe and they don't cause the flu; they don't contain any active virus and they will save lives. Especially for our family members, we hope that you will join us in deciding to get a flu shot to help protect the vulnerable population that we serve.

Within the past day, new guidelines have been released by the federal and state governments, related to visitation in communities like Redstone. Of course, these guidelines call for policies, restriction of numbers of visitors, social distancing, etc. We are digesting this information and putting a plan in place. We will say more in our next communication. Hopefully as we prepare to follow these new guidelines, and continue to see our testing results moving in the right direction, we will soon have news for you about visitation. We share a common goal of bringing residents and families together – safely and soon.

P.S. We are still seeking uplifting messages to send to our employees via our messaging system. If you would like to send a message of up to about 50 words, just reply to this email with your message. You can share a quote or just your own words. These messages are sure to encourage our employees!

*Vicki*

Vicki Loucks, RN, MSN, MBA  
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer  
Redstone Presbyterian Seniorcare  
Hotline: 724-972-4579 or [hotline@redstone.org](mailto:hotline@redstone.org)