



Dear Residents, Families, and Friends,

Here is your Covid-19 Update for Thursday, May 28, 2020.

On March 13th, we announced our no-visitor policy and launched into our COVID-19 journey at Redstone. Thankfully, we have been able to hold the line for 75 days and saw no cases diagnosed on our campuses or throughout our employee workforce. This has been due to the amazing cooperation that we have experienced from residents, employees, and families as we worked together to keep COVID out. Sadly, as you have heard by now, we had our first positive diagnosis of COVID-19 yesterday on our North Huntingdon campus. The patient resides in our Independent Living (IL) Apartments. Due to HIPAA, we cannot provide any additional information on this case.

Our team has rallied and is well-prepared to deal with this new phase of our coronavirus response. We immediately began contact tracing to determine who had been in contact with the diagnosed. In an abundance of caution we have made the decision to test all of our residents and employees across our Redstone campuses. This testing has already begun on our North Huntingdon campus, and will extend to Murrysville and Greensburg as soon as possible. Testing is being conducted in partnership with Excelsa Health, and will be conducted with a nasal swab. Results will take three to four days to receive. Information as to how results will be shared will be provided soon.

For our employees, testing will be a condition of employment. Residents who choose not to be tested will be advised to quarantine in place in their apartment or room for a 14 day period. Any villa resident identified through our contact tracing will be contacted and offered to be tested. As we learn more and more about COVID-19, we know that asymptomatic spread is a real and serious issue – meaning that a person who has absolutely no symptoms can be carrying the virus and sharing it with others. Testing our entire Redstone community will identify potential asymptomatic carriers.

Because we have entered this new phase of our COVID-19 response, it is extremely important that we are all wearing our masks and wearing them correctly. Our masks should cover our mouths and noses and should be worn at all times – except when a resident is in their room or apartment. Masks help to limit the spread of the virus through the spraying of saliva.

This positive case requires us to delay some of the steps we were taking to return to normalcy here at Redstone. Please note the following:

- Our no visitor policy remains firmly in place in our main buildings across all levels of care. Families may not visit face-to-face with residents in indoor or outdoor spaces. Visits through closed windows remain welcome. Our Lifestyle Team can help to set up virtual visits using Skype, Facetime, or Zoom. Please do not attempt to enter the campus through side doors, or private resident patio doors.
- We will continue our personal shopper service for those in need of groceries, personal items, or medications.
- Residents should continue to avoid congregating with groups of fellow residents on our campuses, practicing that safer social distancing of 6 feet apart at all times.

The question that we hear more than any other is about residents leaving the campus. So let me address that with the following:

- Personal Care and Nursing Home residents may only leave the campus for essential medical appointments. Redstone will provide transportation to medical appointments.

- Our guidance for Independent Living residents is a little more challenging. With Westmoreland County's move to the yellow phase of recovery, and potential move to green in the near future, our IL residents have the right to make their own choices about where they go. Our best and most caring advice is, however, that these residents limit their trips off campus to essential medical appointments, too. Independent Living residents who drive may transport themselves to medical appointments, families may transport them, or Redstone will provide transportation.
- IL residents who choose to leave the campus should wear their masks at all times, even if only in the presence of family members. Family members should also wear masks to protect the residents. The decisions that our residents make about leaving the campus and having contact with others may impact not only themselves, but their fellow residents.

While this positive case sends us into a higher state of awareness and response, we remain confident in our ability to care for our residents. We will continue to communicate with honesty and transparency, as has been our practice and in line with our core Redstone values.

Our prayers are especially close to those who have been directly impacted by this virus, and for all of us as we deal with a new level of concern across our campuses. We are so grateful for the support and trust that you have blessed us with over the past 75 days, and we carry on with faith and hope as we move into the days that lie ahead. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

*Vicki*

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