



Residents and Families,

Over the last several months, Evergreen has continued testing team members two times per week utilizing PCR testing as we have found this to be a best practice to keep residents as safe as possible during COVID-19. As of this week, the positivity rate in Johnson County has increased to 12.1% per the KDHE nursing home metrics for positivity rate we are mandated to follow. Per CMS requirements, a rate of >10% eliminates the option for indoor visits with the exception of compassionate care visits and requires twice a week testing for team members regardless of outbreak status. This also means we are now *required* to test team members (and residents if in outbreak testing mode) twice a week. CMS considers an outbreak to be a positive test from any *one* team member or resident.

Unfortunately, our latest round of testing identified one positive team member. This team member had tested negative last Thursday and tested positive Monday morning. The team member was asymptomatic as of yesterday and will remain home in quarantine following CMS and CDC guidelines for returning to work. This team member was wearing a N95, protective eye wear and a face shield on Monday and only interacted with one resident directly. Although we believe the exposure to be minimal because of the protective equipment in place, use of a N95 mask and face shield, the resident known to have interacted with this team member, and their roommate have been placed on isolation.

We will continue testing weekend team members on Sunday and Thursday and weekday team members on Monday and Thursday. Residents will continue to be tested on Sunday and Thursday at this time although those days could move from Sunday to Monday or Thursday to Wednesday based on availability of team members. Twice a week testing of residents will be required for 14 days from the last positive while in an outbreak (defined as one positive team member or resident) per JCDHE which follows CMS guidance.

While we continue to strongly encourage window visits and video chats, we are actively working to purchase a sturdy tent and outdoor space heaters to utilize for outdoor visits. This will be a top priority over the next week.

As a reminder to residents, while on isolation precautions, communal dining and group activities are not options. If you are not on isolation and are able to be in the dining room when we are not in an outbreak, we ask that you do not linger past the end of your meal and put your mask back on as soon as you finish eating. A mask must be worn anytime you leave your room or when a team member enters your room. Continue to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene by utilizing the hand sanitizer outside every room if washing your hands is not quickly accessible.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions and utilize the Evergreen update line at (913) 477-8202 for the most up to date information.

Stay safe,

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