



October 1, 2020

TO: Residents and Family Members

FROM: Loriman Looke, Executive Director and Administrator

As summer turns to fall, and coronavirus statistics continue their grim rollercoaster ride, we at Quarry Hill remain vigilant, applying comprehensive preventive measures and procedures as laid out by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Maine Department of Health & Human Services. Our goal, as always, is to protect the health of our residents and care team.

Until now, care team members who “fail” Quarry Hill’s daily standard screening for symptoms have been asked to contact our Employee Health Line for guidance and instructions for testing. The latest mandate from CMS, by contrast, requires us to implement routine COVID-19 testing of all care team members (as well as essential contractors and vendors who regularly enter the building), whether or not they have symptoms.

This testing initiative, called “surveillance” testing, will begin during the first full week of October and continue on at least a once-a-month basis as long as required. Testing may become more frequent if the number of COVID diagnoses in the wider community rises.

How will the tests be administered?

Quarry Hill will use nasal-swab tests, as approved for our setting by the CDC and CMS. Samples drawn will be sent to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory in Augusta for analysis.

What if a care team member tests positive?

If an individual were to receive a positive test result, he or she will be contacted by our local Employee Health department, as well as the Maine CDC, and stay away from Quarry Hill until medical authorities deemed it safe for him/her to return. A new phase of testing, including not only care team members (and contractors, etc.), but also residents throughout the Anderson Inn, would then begin. Individuals testing negative during

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this phase would be retested every 3 to 7 days until we have zero new cases of COVID for a period at least 14 days since the last positive result.

In Closing

As of this writing, we have had no known cases of COVID-19 amongst our residents or care team members since the advent of the pandemic. We've been fortunate, yes. But I also believe that our track record to date reflects the diligent efforts of our entire team to protect the older adults entrusted to our care. The COVID emergency has touched virtually every aspect of our residents' lives, as it has transformed daily life for almost every man, woman and child across the United States. It hasn't been easy, but the pandemic isn't over yet, and we mustn't let down our guard. Rest assured we will continue listening to the experts and doing everything we can to keep residents safe.