

Resident and Family Member COVID19 Update – May 21, 2020

First of all, please know that maintaining the health, wellness and safety of our residents is our number one priority!

We appreciate all of the support, prayers, and offers of help that we've received. To keep you up-to-date on our efforts, we will post updates as things change in our community:

Today, there are no confirmed cases on the Samaritan Bethany campus. Our actions and continued vigilance have kept us safe. The confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Olmsted County and the State of Minnesota continue to climb. Governor Walz has not extended the Stay At Home order and businesses are re-opening with restaurants and salons re-opening in early June. We value the health and safety of our residents and staff and remain committed to taking all precautionary measures to protect them. Because our residents are at high-risk for COVID-19 infection, federal and state guidelines restrict us from relaxing rules for visiting and group activities at this time. We, like you, are anxious for a return to normalcy where visitors are warmly welcomed and our personal touch of warm smiles and human touch are not masked or guarded. Please understand this is a difficult time for all concerned and that we will continue to do all we can to connect our residents and families in a safe way.

In the meantime, we continue to monitor and implement the most up-to-date recommendations by our trusted partners; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Olmsted County Health Department. We invite you to refer to this website regularly for the most up-to-date information.

- **Our COVID-19 situation:** As of May 20th, 2020, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on our campus. **We did have one staff** who tested positive and have returned to work. Several residents and staff have been tested and all tests were negative.
- **Governor Waltz latest executive order** has opened up the Stay at Home order effective May 18. This however will not change our Stay in Place protocol to keep our residents safe. Unfortunately because the number of positive cases in our State and County are still increasing, we still need to enforce the 'no visitors' policy as recommended by the CDC and CMS.
- **Our supply of protective equipment:** We have been successful in getting some PPE including surgical masks, shields, gloves and some isolation gowns. We continue to work with our vendors to purchase more supplies as they become available. If you are able to make masks, we continue to accept those donations.

- **From our Life Enrichment team:** Here are a few of the activities we have organized for the week to keep residents engaged and connected. Virtual “Name That Tune,” live hallway music, televised fitness programs and church services, and individual video calls per request. We have submitted a grant request for additional tablets to increase the capability for video calls.
- **A huge THANK YOU to those that have given a gift recently to help purchase meals or treats for Samaritan Bethany’s hardworking staff. Your kindness goes a long way in making our staff feel appreciated.**
 - We are arranging special days for our staff with food, treats, fun signage and fun dress up days to help brighten spirits.
 - **Want to help out?** Please send a check made out to the SAMARITAN BETHANY FOUNDATION to Dean Stenehjem, 101 7th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Questions on other ways to help? Please call Dean at 507-254-1603 or Rita at 507-923-4723.

While this good news is encouraging, we must remain strict about doing everything possible to prevent any potential future illness. We continue to restrict visitors to campus and follow strict protocols across every building on our campus. Family members can help us by using alternative methods of visiting residents of Samaritan Bethany Community.