



8/3/20

I am proud to inform you that we have received the results of our COVID-19 baseline testing completed by the Ohio National Guard on 7/23/20 and we were 100% COVID-Free! It was quite an impressive and efficient process. In the span of one and a half hours the ONG had completed 126 tests. Many of our staff were anxious and nervous but they truly proved to us yet again they really are Super Hero's!

In our last communication, we indicated that the Ohio Department of Health was going to require us to complete Resident Baseline testing in the same fashion as our staff baseline testing. They have since changed course and modified the regulations. Moving forward, residents will only be tested if it is clinically indicated (they are showing signs or symptoms indicative of COVID-19). Instead, the Ohio Department of Health is requiring facilities to complete State Supported Staff Re-testing every 2 weeks. So, we are in the midst of studying the information and regulations released to help us develop our plan to test staff on an ongoing basis. We have communicated to the Ohio Department of Health that in order for these ongoing tests to be valuable, results must be made available much timelier.

As a reminder, if we ever have a resident or staff member test positive for COVID-19 we will be communicating with you directly. We also continue to update our website: www.welcomenursinghome.com under the COVID-19 Updates tab. Here you will find education, previous family letters, YouTube video communications and our updated COVID-19 test result numbers.

Now that we have our baseline testing completed, I am confident that you are wondering where we are with offering outside visitation. To be very honest, we are nervous, we are worried, we are being very conservative. We are fortunate that our buildings design has supported successful window visits. Since they have been so well received, we will continue window visits even after outside visits become an option. This will allow more families to participate since the outside visits must be scheduled, and staff members are required to monitor them throughout. Once our outside policy and procedure have been reviewed and approved by our Quality Assessment Performance Improvement committee and Dr. Eren, our Medical Director, we will communicate the details with you through an emailed letter.

We have had many questions regarding the Beautician. As part of our Staff Baseline Testing, she was tested as a Contract Employee. We are working with her and our team to get her back in the building sooner rather than later. Our goal is to have a plan for her return by the end of next week.

I want to thank you again for your continued support and faith in our team. We continue to make decisions with the health and safety of our residents in the forefront of our minds. As always, if you have questions or concerns please feel free to reach out.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L

Vice President

