



8/7/2020

Dear Resident, Family Member/Loved One,

We have received our antigen testing machine from CMS. This machine is called the Sofia 2, and does provide results on the spot. Antigen tests are very specific for the virus, but are not as sensitive as molecular PCR tests. The molecular PCR testing (polymerase chain reaction) tests that we have been using can be extremely accurate, but running the tests and analyzing the results does take time. We are utilizing the Sofia 2 machine for any residents who are symptomatic and need a quick way to identify the appropriate zone that resident should be placed in. We will also be utilizing the machine to test any employees that are symptomatic or have had exposure to a COVID-19 positive person as a means to quickly identify if they need to be off work for any period of time.

We had one symptomatic resident who is exposed to the community going to dialysis who was in isolation on our monitoring unit who tested positive for COVID-19 today, 8/7/20, this resident will be in isolation on our dedicated COVID-19 unit with dedicated staff until 10 days have passed and 24 hours from symptom cessation according to the CDC guidelines.

We continue to screen all employees daily and employees have been informed to report to Infection control Nurse if they have any symptoms during their shift. If any employee reports symptoms they will leave the Facility and follow-up with our Infection Control Nurse for testing and return to work guidelines.

Our facility continues to have an adequate supply of PPE, but we are using it on a crisis/contingency plan according to CDC and CMS to preserve it. All employees are wearing face masks universally while in the building, and using eye protection whenever a staff member is within 6 feet of a resident or providing direct care. Full isolation including gowns, gloves, masks and eye protection are being used on those units identified as potential exposed or exposed to COVID-19.

We continue to follow COVID-19 policy and procedures including increased hand hygiene, increased sanitation of high touch surfaces and monitoring of employees, essential visitors, and residents.

We are testing employees weekly for COVID-19, and will continue weekly. During this week's universal testing we have tested 245 employees this week and 238 have tested negative, 1 positive, and 6 are pending.

We are working hard on quick identification of any COVID-19 cases so that employees can be kept out of work and residents may be placed in appropriate zone for the care that they need.