



October 5, 2020  
COVID Update

Dear Woodlands Residents and Families,

On Sunday evening, October 4, we were informed by Mayo Health System that a resident at the Woodlands tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. This resident was tested last Monday and tested negative at that time.

Last Monday and Tuesday when we tested staff, residents and tenants at both St. John's locations, all tests came back negative. It's not unusual for a person to test negative for the COVID-19 virus, and then test positive a few days later due to the incubation period of this virus. This is one of the reasons that frequent testing is recommended for people living in a nursing home or assisted living setting.

Today we will be doing mandatory testing for all staff that work at the Woodlands. Testing will be available to all Woodlands residents and Meadows tenants as well. Last week when we tested, we didn't receive all of the results until the end of the week, so we may not have results until Friday, October 9. I will post an update on St. John's website as soon as we have the test results. If your family member tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, the person listed as the main contact in our records will be notified by phone of the test results. If you do not receive a telephone call from one of our nurses, that is good news.

The residents and staff at the Highway 13 nursing home will be tested for the COVID-19 virus on Tuesday, October 6. Staff testing at the Highway 13 nursing home is not mandated, but we do strongly encourage staff to be tested.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus has proven to be extremely resilient and keeps popping up. Last week I was listening to a presentation given by Michael Osterholm, University of Minnesota epidemiologist. His main messages was that the COVID-19 virus needs to be taken seriously, it is still spreading, and that we need to continue to take precautions such as wearing a mask and physical distancing.

We are all looking forward to the day when this virus will be behind us, and that day will surely come. Until it does, we will continue to push back on this virus.

Take care and God Bless,

Scot Spates