



Dear Sir or Madam,

On Monday, May 18, we began testing staff and residents for COVID-19 at Samaritan Summit Village long-term care facility, in compliance with a new state directive issued by Governor Cuomo and as part of our ongoing safety efforts.

On Thursday, June 18, Samaritan Health received notice one staff member from skilled nursing at Samaritan Summit Village tested positive. The staff member was asymptomatic, exhibited no outward signs of being ill, and was unaware they had the virus. Since March this employee has tested negative eight times, until receiving this positive result on June 16th. This staff member did not travel and was not aware of being exposed to the virus.

As you know, since March 2020, numerous precautionary measures have been implemented at Samaritan's two long-term care facilities to ensure our residents and staff remain safe from this Coronavirus. These efforts include strict visitor restrictions, temperature checks upon every entry, asking a series of screening questions, requiring face masks for all staff and vendors, sanitizing, masking residents if they leave the facility, resident temperature checks every eight hours, and other precautionary measures. We have also taken great care to abide by the state's stringent guidelines regarding COVID-19, many of which we put into place before they became mandatory.

Unfortunately, as we've seen across the state and country, the unpredictable nature of this virus and the potential for those infected not to show symptoms can cause some cases to go undetected. We are also aware the more testing we do of asymptomatic people the more likely it is we will have positive cases, which is the situation with our staff member.

The health and safety of our residents and staff remains our top priority. All staff will be tested once per week to check for additional asymptomatic cases. As we have from the beginning, any employee showing symptoms will be tested immediately and will not be able to work.

At this point, Samaritan Summit Village residents have been tested and all were negative. We're confident the additional precautions staff have been taking, including wearing masks and regular, deep sanitization of the facility, have greatly helped limit exposure.

We are fully prepared to care for any resident that may test positive for COVID-19. We have a plan in place to separate residents and have fully-trained staff to provide care.

The employee who tested positive will quarantine at home for the recommended 14 days and can only return to work once they test negative for the virus. Any residents or staff members the employee came in contact with will be notified and screened diligently for COVID-19 symptoms.

This information is not intended to alarm you. While you are apart from your loved one during this crisis, Samaritan Health is committed to keeping you informed, and per state guidelines, we will continue to send you notifications as necessary. Should any other staff members or residents test positive, or any other pertinent updates develop, we will make sure you are aware. You will receive a text message or phone call and will be directed to our webpage for all updates: www.samaritanhealth.com/covid-ltc. This is the fastest and most efficient way to notify you.

In the event there are any health concerns for your family member, Samaritan staff will call you personally. Communication has been our priority with our family letters, social media posts, video chats and phone calls, and this will continue.

If you have any questions, please contact us directly. We are here to speak to you and hope you know your loved ones are our priority. Please feel free to call me, Barbara Morrow, Vice President of Long Term Care, at 315-782-7002, or John Gahler, Long Term Care Infection Preventionist, at 315-782-6831.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your loved one. We take that charge seriously and will continue to do all in our power to mitigate the impact of this disease on our community, particularly on our senior residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Morrow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Barbara Morrow, MS, NHA, CHC
Vice President of Long Term Care
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