



December 28, 2020

Dear Samaritan Summit Village Family Member:

I am saddened to inform you Samaritan Health today experienced the first COVID-19-related death at one of our two long-term care facilities since the pandemic's onset in March.

The resident, who was in the Skilled Nursing Unit at Samaritan Summit Village, first tested positive for the virus on December 20 and was later hospitalized. As with many of our skilled nursing residents, this person did have several underlying health conditions.

On behalf of our entire organization, we extend our deepest condolences to the resident's family and our entire community. Today's death is a stark reminder regarding the heavy toll this pandemic is taking throughout the U.S., particularly among our senior population.

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to our residents and staff starting next week offers hope there may be some light at the end of this long tunnel. Residents and staff at Samaritan Summit Village and Samaritan Keep Home will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine through our partnership with Walgreens starting January 4 and January 5, respectively. Consent forms must be completed before the vaccine can be administered, and we look forward to many willing participants.

Samaritan places the health and safety of our residents and staff above all else. We will continue our diligent efforts to prevent the spread of this virus in our facilities, following all NYSDOH directives for testing, contact tracing, safety equipment precautions, staff screening and close monitoring, and frequent temperature checks for all residents and staff.

As has been the case from the beginning of the pandemic, we will continue to keep you informed regarding COVID-19 infections among residents and staff via updates at [www.samaritanhealth.com/covid-1tc](http://www.samaritanhealth.com/covid-1tc).

In the event there are any specific health concerns regarding your family member, Samaritan staff will call you personally, as communication with family members remains among our highest priorities. If you have any questions, please contact me at 315-782-7002 or Mike Smith, Assistant Director of Nursing/Infection Control, at 315-782-6800.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your loved one. We 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".

Barbara Morrow, MS, NHA, CHC  
Vice President of Long Term Care  
Samaritan Summit Village  
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315-782-7002