

Pelican Valley Senior Living COVID-19 Update

May 27, 2020

An Update on Our Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19):

We have been advocating to have an expanded ability for conducting **facility-wide testing** along with our membership association, LeadingAge Minnesota. There have been recent announcements regarding testing for both residents and staff of long-term care facilities and congregate settings such as assisted living facilities. In consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and our medical advisors, we support this widespread testing to help identify and be proactive in our preparedness. Without conducting testing and identifying areas of concern, it is much more difficult to prepare to respond to an invisible virus.

We believe that by conducting testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals we will have a greater ability to identify any individuals who may need additional assistance and implement additional infection control precautions based on our findings. Testing will also allow us the ability to identify areas where there may be any concern and respond accordingly. Testing is an additional component of a broad-based response strategy that includes triage and clinical consultation, infection prevention control measures, resident and staff health screening among other interventions that have been in place for several weeks. All these considerations must be in place for effectively applying testing to reduce the possibility of transmission.

We are working closely to conduct testing for residents and staff at Pelican Valley Senior Living with the Minnesota Department of Health. **We have developed a comprehensive plan for testing and are working to confirm dates when a base-line test will be made available as well as our process to facilitate testing.** Follow-up testing will occur based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Consent forms are required to be obtained prior to testing. We will do this at the time of the resident and/or staff being tested. **We share testing dates and the process once this is confirmed.**

We understand you may be concerned about the spread of COVID-19, especially with the amount of media coverage heightening everyone's awareness on senior living providers. We want you to know that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. **This has always been our priority and will always continue to be our priority.**

We have expanded access to communicate regularly with residents and their families. While each residential building operates a bit differently, we are utilizing our website, Facebook, family portals, mobile apps, email notifications and daily check-ins with residents. Keeping residents and families informed is important to us.

We will continue to provide updates to you to keep you informed of our ongoing work. **Please note: This is a fluid situation and updates are in continuous development. Help us keep family and loved ones informed by visiting our website: <http://pelicanvalleyseniorliving.org/coronavirus/>**

*Health agencies providing recommendations to us include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, local medical advisors and public health advisors among others.

