



July 1, 2020

To Our Pelican Valley Senior Living Residents and Family Members:

As you're aware, we have been working toward conducting **facility-wide testing** for both residents and staff as a way to help identify and be proactive in our coronavirus preparedness. 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 our 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. **At this time, there are no active cases at Pelican Valley.**

We have been able to confirm testing details with the Minnesota Department of Health who will be facilitating the testing. The testing will occur using a nasal swab in the nasal cavity. Extreme care will be taken when collecting specimens on all residents, particularly those with cognitive or memory impairment.

All residents and staff will be receiving a base-line test for COVID-19 on Tuesday, July 7. Also, all residents and staff will be tested upon identification of an individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or if an employee has tested positive for COVID-19. Recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health require **follow-up testing, which will be conducted on Tuesday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 21.** The purpose is to continue testing until two rounds of negative testing is successfully confirmed.

Consent forms are required to be obtained prior to testing. We will be working to obtain consent forms prior to resident/staff being tested. Should you have questions about completing the consent form or about testing, contact **Jordyn Brinkman, Director of Nursing at the Care Center, at 218-863-2991 ext. 27714 or Megan Mayer, Director of Clinical Care in Housing, at 218-863-2401 ext. 27762.**

It is likely that some tests will be returned to us with a positive result. Should this occur for residents, we will follow all recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and our local medical professionals on how to best care for the resident depending upon their circumstances. We will notify residents and their responsible party at our first availability and follow the notification requirements to ensure you are informed of the situation.

Should a staff member test positive for COVID-19, we would require them to **not** report to work and to self-quarantine following the recommendations by the Minnesota Department of Health. They also have recommendations on what a safe return to work requires with qualifying criteria.

In the event of a confirmed positive case, notices will be made using the secured website portal designed for Pelican Valley families to access. Notices will also be made on the Pelican Valley Senior Living website and Facebook page.

Should you experience symptoms such as a cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, please contact us immediately by calling Tyler Ahlf at 218-863-2991 x27712 or Jordyn Brinkman, Director of Nursing by calling 218-863-2991 x27714, and refrain from leaving your room out of respect to others who reside at Pelican Valley.

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/>**

Sincerely,
Tyler Ahlf
Executive Director