

PVSL COVID-19 Update

August 24, 2020

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

Pelican Valley has learned that two of its staff members have tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). One staff member works at Riverfront Manor and the other staff member works at the Care Center. The cases were identified through facility-wide surveillance testing which took place on Tuesday, August 18. They are being self-quarantined at their private residence at this time and will not return to work until they meet specific return to work criteria as advised by the Minnesota Department of Health.

“We are saddened that COVID-19 has affected anyone, including our staff,” says Tyler Ahlf, Executive Director. “We are praying for a full recovery and are taking every precaution possible to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Keeping our staff and residents safe and healthy continues to be our number one priority.”

Pelican Valley is working closely with the local health agencies and the Minnesota Department of Health to ensure all possible measures are being put into place to provide the best care for those they serve and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible.

Pelican Valley has shared this information with affected residents, their family members and staff per their communications protocols. Additionally, various forms of communication were shared early on, beginning in March, to educate and inform residents, their families and community members on how Pelican Valley has been preparing for these unfortunate but likely eventual virus confirmations.

“To everyone we serve, I want you to please know that we are taking every precaution possible to safeguard you and/or your loved ones, including our staff,” reflects Ahlf. He continues, “While we have been aggressively implementing precautions, we are unable to completely control an infectious virus – the cause of this pandemic. We remain vigilant in our efforts to advocate for those we serve and those who provide care—not just now but always.”

Since early March, Pelican Valley and Knute Nelson has taken a multitude of proactive measures to prepare for and mitigate the potential spread of the virus. A Coronavirus Taskforce was comprised with representation of staff from various departments and clinical disciplines, including infection control. The Taskforce has held routine meetings to interpret recommendations from the Centers for Disease, Minnesota Department of Health, Ottertail Public Health among other agencies to review and revise policies and procedures related to infectious diseases to enact stringent safety protocols and mitigating risk of an outbreak.

We will continue our progress to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. We are grateful for the support of residents and families to help ensure the safety for all.

We continue to follow recommendation from various agencies, including 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.