



11/5/20

RE: Positive COVID test results received for a Pinecrest staff member

Dear resident/resident representative,

Since mid-March, Pinecrest has been following every protective measure issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and our local health department in an effort to protect our residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedicated staff of Pinecrest Community has taken extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of all our residents.

Due to an increase in positivity rates in Ogle County, Pinecrest has been testing staff members twice per week since October 26. Today, Pinecrest had one staff member test positive during routine testing with a rapid test. Pinecrest retested the staff member with a PCR test that was sent to the lab today and we should receive those results in 2-3 days. The staff member was sent home immediately and will not return to work until cleared by the Ogle County Health Department. This staff member had worked on the West Side and Wing 4. Due to patient privacy laws, we are unable to share any further specific information about the confirmed case in our facility.

The Ogle County Health Department and other Pinecrest staff have been notified of the potential exposure. Pinecrest will test all residents tomorrow using rapid tests. If all resident tests are negative, no further testing will be required unless someone develops symptoms.

Resident safety continues to be a top priority for Pinecrest Community. This virus is especially dangerous to our population—older adults with underlying health conditions—so, this is a critical issue that requires our immediate attention.

Pinecrest is in close contact with our local and state health departments, as well as the CDC, to ensure that we are following the most up-to-date recommendations to prevent and manage the spread of COVID-19.

- We have reviewed and updated our infection prevention and control plans and our emergency communication plan.
- We are following general public health best practices: handwashing, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- We have reinforced to our staff that anyone who is sick should stay home, and we are screening all personnel as they enter the building and mid-way through their shift.
- We will place residents with any symptoms in early contact isolation and droplet protection until a definitive diagnosis is made. (at this time, we have no residents with symptoms.)
- We will keep ill individuals away from healthy individuals by cohorting ill residents together.
- We are requiring the use of masks by residents if they need to leave their rooms.
- We will continue to keep family members up to date as this situation unfolds, so they have the latest information about their loved ones.
- We will follow CDC guidance for our return to work policy for any staff member who tests positive.

We will provide weekly written updates to you via our website at:

<https://www.pinecrestcommunity.org/Pinecrest-Information/COVID-19-pandemic-information>

If you are unable to access our website, please notify us at 815-734-4103 and we will mail you the weekly update.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to call or email me at flabash@pinecrestcommunity.org . You may also contact Jolene LeClere, Administrator of Health Services, at 815-734-4103 or email jleclere@pinecrestcommunity.org.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the safety of our residents and staff. Together we are stronger!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ferol J. Labash".

Ferol J. Labash
Chief Executive Officer