



2/5/21

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

Dear resident/resident representative,

Now that COVID positivity rates have dropped for our region and our state has returned to Illinois Phase 4 of COVID mitigation, news stories have recently been published about nursing homes allowing visits to their facilities. I would like to clarify the regulations we are required to follow and give you some idea of when Pinecrest may be permitted to offer visits to families.

Once the state entered Illinois Phase 4, nursing homes could begin working through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) nursing home phases of reopening. During CMS phase 1, communal dining and group activities are discouraged, however they can be permitted on a limited and modified basis. Indoor visits are not permitted. Beauty and Barber services cannot be provided. A facility must begin at CMS phase 1 when the state returns to Phase 4 and must stay in CMS phase 1 for 14 days with no new positive COVID cases among residents or staff during that 14 days. Once that qualification is met, the nursing home must wait an additional 14 days before the nursing home can advance to CMS phase 2.

CMS phase 2 allows modified group dining and group activities. For dining, six feet distancing must be maintained and maximum seating is at no more than 25% capacity. Group activities must also maintain social distancing and masking with a maximum of 10 in the activity. Indoor visits may begin under strict restrictions. Visits must be scheduled in advance, no more than two visitors per resident are allowed and they must be from the same household. Visitors must be pre-screened by phone less than 24 hours in advance of the visit using a checklist-based screening protocol for COVID. Upon arrival for the visit, visitors are re-screened including a temperature check. Visitors must remain masked, practice social distancing and practice hand hygiene using hand sanitizer. Visitors must agree to immediately notify the facility if they develop COVID symptoms within three days of their visit. Barber/Beauty Services may be resumed in CMS phase 2. The nursing home must remain in CMS phase 2 with no new cases of COVID among residents or staff for 14 days. Once that qualification is met, the nursing home must wait an additional 14 day before the nursing home can advance to CMS phase 3.

CMS Phase 3 differs little from CMS Phase 2 other than allowing increased numbers for participation in group dining and activities as long as social distancing can be maintained.

At any given point in the CMS phases if a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID, the nursing home has to revert to the beginning of CMS phase 1 and work through the entire process again.

Yesterday during routine COVID testing of Pinecrest staff, an employee tested positive for COVID using a rapid test. Pinecrest retested the employee with a PCR test that confirmed the rapid test result. The staff member was sent home immediately and will not return to work until cleared by the Ogle County Health Department. The staff member worked on the East Side of Pinecrest Manor. 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 Pinecrest staff have been notified of the potential exposure. Pinecrest tested all Manor East Side residents yesterday, February 4 and all results were negative. Pinecrest will test East Side residents again on Monday, February 8. If all resident tests are negative, no further testing will be required unless someone develops symptoms.

Unfortunately, due to the positive COVID test result with the staff member, Pinecrest must return to the beginning of CMS phase 1 and start working through the phases again. The earliest we could attest to phase 2 would be Saturday, March 5 which would allow us to resume visits the week of March 8 and that is only if we have no new positives between now and then.

The CMS phases for nursing homes do not apply to independent living, so the positive case in the nursing home has no effect on Pinecrest Village's reopening plan.

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.

Sincerely,



Ferol J. Labash
Chief Executive Officer