



414 S. Wesley Ave. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 • 815-734-4103

Update 8/21/20

Dear resident/resident representative/community member,

I'm pleased to share that since my last update Pinecrest has continued weekly testing of residents and staff and has received no new positive COVID-19 test results. Additionally, the lab is turning tests around in a much more timely manner. Of the 146 we processed on Wednesday, August 19, we've received 139 back as of today. All tests have been negative from this round of testing.

Last week, Illinois Department of Public Health issued a reopening plan for nursing homes. The extensive plan is segmented into three phases. Numerous factors such as case status in the community, case status in the facility, staffing levels, PPE supply and usage, essential cleaning and disinfection supplies, universal screening, universal source control and hand hygiene, and a testing plan and response strategy are all considered when determining if a nursing home may advance to the next phase.

Because of the numerous factors considered for moving from phase to phase in the reopening plan, Illinois nursing homes will likely be in different phases at a single point in time. Pinecrest may be in one phase while a nursing home just a short distance away could be in a different phase. We ask for your understanding as we work to progress through the phases. Please know that we are doing our absolute best to meet the requirements to advance through the reopening phases. Pinecrest is currently in Phase 2 of the reopening plan which allows outdoor visits, modified communal dining and small group activities. If we continue to see no new positive cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff in the next 14 days, if our region continues to stay below the established positivity threshold, and if we are able to maintain adequate supplies of PPE and sufficient staffing levels, we will be able to move in to phase 3.

Phase 3 will allow limited, supervised, brief visits indoors and beauty/barber services will be permitted. At this time, the Ogle County Health Department believes that we will be able to stop resident testing and test staff on a biweekly or monthly basis once we reach phase 3. Overall, the restrictions during phase 3 remain very tight, however. As we reach phase 3, we will communicate the details of the state requirements for indoor visits. For now, I will say that the requirements for indoor visits very much mirror the current requirements for outdoor visits.

New positive cases at any point during the reopening plan will require mitigation in visitation, communal dining, group activities and barber and beauty shop services. The state has outlined three tiers of mitigation to be implemented to help prevent the nursing home from having to move back to a more restrictive phase. However, if the tiered mitigation fails to prevent additional new cases, then nursing homes are required to return to the most restrictive phase and work through the reopening phases again.

Pinecrest will continue to provide weekly updates on our website at <https://www.pinecrestcommunity.org/Pinecrest-Information/COVID-19-pandemic-information> . New updates will also be referenced on the Pinecrest Community Facebook page with a link to the update. If additional positive test results are received, that information will be posted within 24 hours of receiving the results. If you are unable to access our website, please notify us at 815-734-4103 and we will mail you the updates.

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