

7/13/20

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.

Last week, Pinecrest performed COVID-19 testing of residents and staff to establish a baseline as recommended by CMS. We have received the results of 202 tests and we are waiting for the results on 60 tests.

Despite taking every precaution recommended by the CDC, CMS and IDPH, I am writing to let you know that today we have had one staff member test positive for COVID-19. Due to patient privacy laws, we are unable to share any further specific information about the confirmed case in our facility, but we have notified the staff member and the local health department.

Additionally, we have notified Illinois Department of Public Health. Pinecrest will work with IDPH to conduct additional testing of staff as required.

Resident safety is 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 and is receiving our immediate attention.

Pinecrest remains in close contact with our local and state health departments, as well as the CDC, to stay up to date on the information to prevent and manage the spread of Coronavirus.

- 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 essential 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 on wing 4.

- We continue to require the use of masks on residents if they need to leave their rooms. A resident moving outside of their rooms is severely restricted.
- 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](mailto:flabash@pinecrestcommunity.org) . You may also contact Jolene LeClere, Administrator of Health Services, at 815-734-4103 or email [jleclere@pinecrestcommunity.org](mailto:jleclere@pinecrestcommunity.org).

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

Sincerely,



Ferol J. Labash  
Chief Executive Officer