



August 5, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Caregivers,

Previously, we updated you on the new guidance and format released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding how we notify you about COVID-19, which began on May 8, 2020.

**Recorded mass phone messages and utilization of our facility website is our method of ongoing communication, which will provide the most current numbers of COVID-19 cases.** This method of communication will provide the most current numbers, and although we realize mass phone messages do not replace a personal call, you are welcome to reach out to us with any specific questions.

Our COVID-19 tests have been coordinated through a contracted lab. Specimens have been collected by our facility's staff. The initial testing was completed on July 1, 2020. The results revealed one positive staff member. On July 9, 2020, through our facility call blast, and on July 10, 2020, through our homepage update letter, family members were informed that one employee tested positive for COVID-19. Because of the positive tests received on July 9, 2020, and July 10, 2020, additional testing beyond the baseline testing is required. The facility has conducted testing again for residents and staff on July 15, 2020 and July 16, 2020 and another employee tested positive. Additional testing of residents and staff on July 22, 2020, and July 23, 2020, noted three additional staff members tested positive. Retesting occurred again on July 29 & 30. Once again, the results showed one positive staff member. None of the affected staff has shown any signs and symptoms of illness. **All residents remain negative at this time.** Retesting of all residents and staff will occur today, August 5, 2020. We will notify you of the results of that testing by phone message. We must continue to test weekly, until we have fourteen days of negative results.

We continue to work with the Department of Health on additional follow-up measures. At this point, we are considered a low-risk exposure based on the protective measures that The Patriot had previously implemented. Our residents and staff members will continue to be monitored for signs/symptoms consistent with COVID-19. We also continue to practice the mitigation measures we previously shared with you.

Please know that we extend our most sincere gratitude to you and yours as we continue to provide love and attention to those in our care as we all navigate these unprecedented times. As always, please contact the facility with any questions at (814) 445-4549. Thank you from the staff of The Patriot, A Choice Community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Smith, RNC, NHA, PCHA

Administrator

