



VASSAR-WARNER HOME

October 24, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Testing Update

Dear Residents, Families and Staff:

Since May 14, to protect and safeguard our community here at Vassar-Warner Home, our staff have been tested weekly for COVID-19. Following a routine testing, a staff member received a positive result for the virus. This individual is and has been asymptomatic. Following the diagnosis, however, the individual has not been at work and since learning of the positive result this morning, this individual is now quarantining at home. This individual will not return to the facility for a minimum of 14 days and will be re-tested and must receive a negative COVID-19 result before returning to work. These measures are in strict accordance with the directives and measures being given to us from New York State and Dutchess County Departments of Health.

The New York State Department of Health as well as the Dutchess County Office of Emergency Management have been notified. We are anticipating both departments to arrive here on Monday or Tuesday to test all residents as well as any staff that have been in the building since Sunday October 18. These tests will be hand delivered to Wadsworth Laboratories, the state laboratory in the Capital Region.

All residents have been told and PPE is always available. We have reminded them that when they are out of their room, they must wear masks. We will continue to have meals in the Dining Room and The Parlor as all residents always sit more than 6 feet apart. During activities, residents will continue to socially distance as well as us PPE. We will continue to monitor all residents and staff for signs and symptoms; this includes morning and evening temperature checks on all residents as well as temperature checks on all staff each time they enter the building.

Unfortunately, in accordance with NYS Department of Health Guidelines, all visitation will cease immediately. All families with scheduled visits, have been notified. We will also be cancelling all window visits until we receive more guidance from the department of health.

We deeply understand your worries and concerns. As always, our number one priority is to protect your loved ones and the staff who care for them. Currently, no other staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of illness.

Everyone here at Vassar-Warner Home, residents and staff included, are a part of our family. I can assure you we are making every possible effort to contain the spread and keep your loved ones safe and healthy. It is now, and always, our first priority. We will continue to communicate any updates with you, and I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ericka Von Salews', written in a cursive style.

Ericka Von Salews, MS
Executive Director, Vassar-Warner Home