



## VASSAR-WARNER HOME

November 1, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Resident Testing Update

Dear Residents, Families and Staff:

As you are all aware, 3 staff recently tested positive for COVID 19. All have been removed from the schedule and are currently quarantining at home. None will return to work before 14 days have passed AND they have received a negative test result. These positive results prompted us to contact the New York State Department of Health as well as the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health.

On Friday, October 30, 2020 both entities arrived at Vassar-Warner Home and conducted Nasopharyngeal/Oropharyngeal Swabs on all residents. These specimens were hand delivered to New York State's Wadsworth Laboratories in Schenectady for testing. ***I am incredibly happy and relieved to report that all results were negative!!!!***

As you know, all staff are tested weekly. If they miss a test, they are unable to work in the building. We diligently track all tests conducted and record the date the results are received. The first positive test result for a staff was received on 10/24 and the other two were received on Wednesday October 28. Since the first positive result was received, all Vassar-Warner Home staff have been tested twice and all have received negative results.

Upon receipt of the first positive result on 10/24, we immediately stopped all visitation. Per New York State guidance, visitation must cease for 14 days and can only resume once that staff has received a test with a negative result. I am cautiously optimistic that by November 16<sup>th</sup>, porch visitation will resume.

In the meantime, we are actively working on two new policies. The first is the update to our New York Forward Plan, which will include guidance for indoor visitation. The second policy will be for family outings and home visits. Please bear with us as we develop these two plans with the safety of your loved ones and our staff as our highest priority.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each of you for your texts, calls and emails showing your support to me and my team. This past week has been not only stressful for everyone, but terrifying as well. The support you have given to me and my team has been incredible and for that I thank you!

Please stay tuned for updates and feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you and be well,

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