



5/27/20

To keep you up-to-date on our efforts to keep our residents and staff safe, we will send out this update as things change in our community:

- **Our COVID-19 situational update:** As of 5/26/20, we have 0 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our care center.
- **Our supply of protective equipment:** You've likely heard about the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shortage caused by COVID-19. Our supply of PPE is adequate. We are working with the State Emergency Operations Center, Southwest Minnesota Healthcare Coalition, Lac qui Parle County Emergency Management and other vendors to get more supplies as we need them.
- **Employee Screening:** All JMHS employees are screening before working with residents. They are asked screening questions and have their temperature taken each day they arrive at work.
- **Outdoor Visits:** We are excited that we can now offer outdoor visits for residents and families. Similar to the Zoom visits, we would like families to schedule an outdoor visit. We do have specific guidelines in place which include maintaining six feet distance between family and resident, screening/temperature of family upon arrival, mask worn by family and resident, limit of two visitors, no physical contact between resident and visitors and no small children. **To schedule an outdoor visit please call the Activity Department at 320.769.2350 ext. 2321 or email them at activities@jmhsmn.org.**
- **Surveillance Testing of MN Nursing Homes:** As the first initiative in Minnesota's 5-Point Battle Plan to Protect our Most Vulnerable released earlier this month, MDH is **expanding testing** for residents and workers in long-term care facilities. As you have likely already heard, Governor Walz has instituted a plan to test the residents and staff of 10 MN nursing homes a day, starting with those nursing homes with at least 1 COVID-19 positive case, and then expanding to all MN nursing homes regardless of whether a COVID-19 case has been confirmed. The goal is to have all MN nursing homes have COVID-19 surveillance testing in place for both residents and staff, to facilitate a safe "opening up" of our nursing homes and communities. JMHS Care Center and Assisted Living has not had a confirmed positive COVID-19 case as of today, so we are not on the priority list to be surveillance tested by MDH at this time. We will communicate to you all prior to surveillance testing being completed.
- **Emergency Preparedness Planning:** As part of JMHS' Emergency Preparedness Plans, we are working with the MN Department of Health on designating a space on our campus to isolate and treat any COVID-19 positive cases from the Care Center residents and Assisted Living tenants that do not require hospitalization.

News from our Team:

- **From our activities team:** Here a few of the activities that we have planned for the week ahead to keep residents engaged and connected even during the physical distancing that COVID-19 is requiring: hallway bingo, Zoom visits with family, hair care by Lisa and many one to one visits with residents.
- **From our nursing team:** Nursing staff monitor residents' every day for any respiratory symptoms, elevated temperatures, or declining oxygen saturation levels.
- **From our social worker:** The Ombudsman for Long-Term Care is not currently making face-to-face visits. If you wish to speak to the Ombudsman for Long-Term Care, you may call 1-800-657-3591. You may also contact your Regional Ombudsman, Ann Holme, at 320-273-2364.



- **From our dietary team:** Residents who need assistance with eating come to the dining room. We are getting more and more residents out for meals. Residents must be at a table on their own and six feet from others. Some residents prefer to remain in their room for meals.
- **From our environmental services team:** Our housekeeping staff has been busy doing extra cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch areas around the care center.
- **From our Administrator, Stacey Lee:** It's been a trying time for all of us, and I'm just so proud of how resilient and positive our residents and staff continue to be, adjusting to our new normal during the Coronavirus pandemic. We've had to make some tough decisions over the past few months, all with the ultimate goal of keeping our residents and staff as safe as possible. However, there have also been many fun and joyful moments these past of months. The continued remote, online visits with family members and friends have brought forth many heartfelt stories told by the residents. The traveling bingo and happy hours have been a hit! 😊 We know how hard it's been to not be able to see your loved ones, and are hoping the limited, outdoor family visits with safety precautions will help the spirits of all involved.

We have included some resources for you to review regarding COVID-19:

- Minnesota Department of Health
 - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Please watch for updated information on our website.

We appreciate all of the support, prayers, and offers of help that we've received. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Redepenning, Care Center Director of Nursing, at 320.312.2103. You may also email Amanda at aredepenning@jmhsmn.org.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COVID-19 PROTECTION ACTIONS

Actions we will take if a resident is diagnosed positive for COVID-19:

- Notify the family of the resident.
- Quarantine the person in their room or move them to an isolated area.
- Work directly with the Minnesota Department of Health to guide our next steps in monitoring and testing residents and staff, as well as infection control to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Communicate with other residents and families about a positive case.

Actions we will take if a staff member is diagnosed positive for COVID-19:

- Staff self-quarantines at home.
- Work directly with the Minnesota Department of Health to guide our next steps in monitoring and testing residents and staff, as well as infection control to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Allow staff to return to work when staff has been fever-free without use of medication for at least 72-hours, have improved respiratory symptoms, and it has been at least 10 days since their first symptoms first appeared.