

# THE MATHER EMPLOYEE COVID-19 UPDATE

April 25, 2020

Dear Employees of The Mather,

We have a second resident with a confirmed case of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The resident resides in skilled nursing. The resident is receiving care within the Life Centre and is taking guidance from their physician. We wish this resident a speedy recovery. **There are no new employee cases.**

Please see the below Important FAQs that we have compiled:

**Q: Will testing be conducted for the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?**

A: We're sure that many of you are reading about increased availability of testing and are wondering if testing would be beneficial to implement at The Mather. As a licensed continuing care retirement community, The Mather must comply with federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines.

From a federal perspective, The Mather follows the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which currently recommends testing people who exhibit symptoms. Locally, we have coordinated with the Evanston Health and Human Services (HHS) Department, which directed us to CDC guidance. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) shared yesterday that IDPH's strategy for testing in long-term care settings is to increase testing as supplies become available. IDPH does not want facilities to conduct testing unless notified by the State. If the State identifies a long-term care setting as a priority for testing, they will notify the community and provide the tests.

This continues to be an evolving situation and we are closely monitoring guidance from the regulatory bodies that oversee The Mather. Should such guidance change, **The Mather will respond. We have been reviewing sources of testing and will be reaching out to these sources to be ready should guidance change.**

**Q: Does The Mather have sufficient PPE and guidelines for wearing it?**

A: At this time, we do. We have a team member who is dedicated to sourcing, procuring, and monitoring usage of PPE. We are also working with Evanston Health and Human Services (HHS) to assist in providing supplies, as needed.

**Based on new guidance from the Evanston HHS, those employees working in the Life Centre will wear proper personal protective equipment when providing direct care to residents. We are also conducting ongoing training and education for staff who wear PPE.**

We encourage you to continue to protect yourself, your family members, and others with whom you may have contact by practicing "physical distancing" (no closer than 6 feet away for no more than 10 minutes); good hand hygiene by washing your hands frequently for 20 or more seconds; and wearing face coverings that cover your mouth and nose when you are out in public.



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We know this is a stressful time for all – residents, staff, and family members. Our main focus is on the priority and safety of those living and working at The Mather. **We recognize how hard each of you are working each day and you are the true heroes in all of this. Thank you for all you are doing to support those who live and work at The Mather.**

We will continue to keep you informed through email (which is also published at [www.thematherevanston.com/alerts](http://www.thematherevanston.com/alerts)). For general questions, please call (847) 492.4651 or email [bewell@thematherevanston.com](mailto:bewell@thematherevanston.com).

Take care and stay well.

Sincerely,

Deann Daniel  
Executive Director

## REMINDERS AND RESOURCES

- **Please stay home if you are not feeling well.** The current protocol from the CDC is to self-monitor for symptoms and not be tested for COVID-19 unless advised by a physician. If you experience any symptoms including: a loss of taste or smell, cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, and gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting, please immediately reach out to your physician and notify your manager or your Human Resources representative of your condition. **Please note that pink eye, eye pain, or vertigo, as well as discoloration of the toes may also be COVID-19 symptoms.**
- Please know we care about you and are here to support you. We will keep you informed of updates through email and at [www.mather.com/team](http://www.mather.com/team). If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the following task force members: Dave Murlette at [dmurlette@mather.com](mailto:dmurlette@mather.com), Michelle Madda at [mmadda@mather.com](mailto:mmadda@mather.com), or Mary Sullivan at [msullivan@mather.com](mailto:msullivan@mather.com).
- **Mather Employee and Family Assistance Program: 24 Hour Counseling & Confidential Referral Service**  
1 (800) 843-1327  
[www.resourcesforliving.com](http://www.resourcesforliving.com).  
User name: Mather LifeWays.  
Password: EAP  
*Provider is Aetna Resources for Living.*
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)