

April 27, 2020

Dear Residents,

We received news of a third 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, and no confirmed cases in Independent Living.**

It is important to share and reiterate the following:

Q: How will I know if I have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case?

A: The Evanston HHS will conduct trace mapping and will contact people who are identified as having had close contact with this person.

We were informed by Evanston HHS that Contact Tracing has started but we have not been notified whether it is complete or if they have notified all responsible parties whose family member was in contact with the positive employee. Contract Tracing will be conducted with each new case.

Q: How are you monitoring symptoms?

A: Residents are being monitored for vital signs, breathing status, and oxygen levels. **We are following physicians' orders for those residents who have exhibited symptoms or were identified to having close contact (within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with a positive case.**

Q: Since there are positive cases in the Life Centre, will you test the residents in the Life Centre?

A: Evanston HHS conducts trace testing of confirmed cases and will notify The Mather if the Department believes specific residents in the Life Centre should be tested. Additionally, we are following physicians' orders for those residents who have exhibited symptoms or were identified to having close contact (within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with a positive case.

It is important to note: The Mather has been operating under the assumption that COVID-19 exists in the community. As such, current protocols and practices regarding infection prevention, including: health screening of staff and residents for symptoms; enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfection; use of personal protective equipment during resident care; and restriction of visitors, would not change if testing occurred.



Q: Are you preparing for community-wide COVID-19 Testing?

A: 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, both through private labs and through IDPH, to respond, as needed.**

Q: There continues to be new information about COVID-19, including potential symptoms. What symptoms should I be self-monitoring?

A: Symptoms may include: a loss of taste or smell, cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, and gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting. **Newer symptoms recently added include: headache, chills, and muscle pain.** Please note that pink eye, eye pain, or vertigo, as well as discoloration of the toes may also be COVID-19 symptoms. If you experience any of these symptoms, please immediately reach out to your physician regarding your condition.

Please be assured we are working diligently to minimize further exposure of this virus and are following guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Our top priority, focus, and attention are on the people who live and work at our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

For general questions, please call (847) 492.4651 or email bewell@thematherevanston.com.

Take care and stay well.

Sincerely,

Deann Daniel,
Executive Director

PS: Please note that this letter is being shared with all resident's current emergency contacts.