

THE MATHER EMPLOYEE COVID-19 UPDATE

April 27, 2020

Dear Employees of The Mather,

We have 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.**

Important Questions:

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.

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



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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.

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). For general questions, please call (847) 492.4651 or email 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. If you experience any symptoms including: a loss of taste or smell, cough, fever, headache, chills, muscle pain, 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. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the following task force members: Dave Murlette at dmurlette@mather.com, Michelle Madda at mmadda@mather.com, or Mary Sullivan at msullivan@mather.com.
- **Mather Employee and Family Assistance Program: 24 Hour Counseling & Confidential Referral Service**
1 (800) 843.1327
www.resourcesforliving.com
User name: Mather LifeWays
Password: EAP
Provider is Aetna Resources for Living.
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): www.cdc.gov