

THE MATHER EMPLOYEE COVID-19 UPDATE

May 2, 2020

Dear employee of The Mather,

We wanted to share an important update with you regarding new information around mass testing for Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), specifically for Life Centre employees.

MASS TESTING:

The Mather, along with an interdisciplinary task force of Mather senior leadership continues to meet daily to discuss critical updates and new guidance released by the CDC and, Evanston Health and Human Services Department (HSS) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to determine if new protocols, policies, and procedures are necessary. All Life Plan Communities follow the guidance of these regulatory agencies; hospitals, also follow the direction of these agencies.

- As of May 1, 2020, IDPH intends on providing testing to every long-term care facility in Illinois. Based on limited resources and supplies, the state will prioritize facilities.
- **Mather had been evaluating options prior to IDPH's change in guidelines and is working to secure testing for all Life Centre employees and Life Centre residents, including residents that reside in Assisted Living, Memory Support, and Skilled Nursing.**
- The process for testing at The Mather, and decision whether to do future testing will be determined based on the outcome of our first round of testing, and guidance from an Infectious Disease expert.
- The cost of testing has not been a factor in our decision to conduct mass testing. We are focused on access to tests, the process to perform testing, protocols for retesting, and how to staff and care for residents if testing were to result in a number of team members needing to self-isolate for 14 days.
- **We are not testing the employees or residents in Independent Living currently. The decision to test in Independent Living will consider the COVID-19 positivity rate of Life Centre employees and the circumstances around the easing of restrictions for residents in Independent Living.**

We know the dramatic impact that Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is having on our families, our communities, and our very way of life. **We can't emphasize how much we appreciate each one of you for being committed to serving the needs of our residents and your fellow team members.** We are in this together!

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.

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