



October 12, 2020

Dear Employees of The Mather,

We have learned that **four residents of The Mather Life Centre have a confirmed positive case of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**. The residents are under the guidance of their physicians and we wish them well as they recover. Residents who have tested positive for the virus will move to the negative pressure wing. Additional results from resident testing this past weekend is pending.

We understand this is not the news anyone wanted to receive. We are committed to the safety of those living and working at The Mather. We know this is stressful news for team members, but please be assured that we have conducted interviews regarding this case, and anyone identified as a possible contact has already been asked to quarantine at home for 14 days.

We are grateful for each of your efforts in personally taking steps to minimize the spread of the virus. We must all remain vigilant as the pandemic goes on and the flu season is upon us. Here are a few **important reminders**:

- Continue to protect yourself, your family members, and others with whom you may have contact **both at work and in your “at home” lives**:
 - Practice physical distancing (no closer than 6 feet away for no more than 15 minutes).
 - Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands frequently for 20 or more seconds.
 - Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose when you are out in public.
- While working at The Mather, it is important to stay within the area in which you do your work and avoid crossing into other areas of The Mather.
- In your personal lives, avoid large gatherings as well as group activities where it may be difficult to maintain physical distancing. (Be sure to always to protect yourself and others by wearing a mask and washing your hands frequently or using hand sanitizer).

Please stay home if you are not feeling well—even if you believe you only have a cold or allergies. The current protocol from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is to self-monitor for symptoms. If you experience any symptoms noted below, please immediately reach out to your physician and notify your manager or your Human Resources representative of your condition, as you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include:

- a loss of taste or smell
- cough
- fever or chills
- headache
- muscle pain
- sore throat
- shortness of breath

- gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting
- pink eye, eye pain, or vertigo
- discoloration of the toes

As for Mather, we will continue to be steadfast in our support of you and our residents during this time. We are committed to keeping you safe and healthy. Here is a reminder of what we're doing:

ROUTINE TESTING:

We'll continue weekly surveillance testing of residents and employees in the Life Centre. This testing will continue until we have achieved 14 days without a positive test result.

CLEANING & SANITATION CONTROLS:

In addition to regular cleaning, our housekeeping team cleans and disinfects high-touch areas in the Life Centre every two hours during the daytime and every four hours at night. These areas include doorknobs and door handles, door push bars, light switches and cover plates, etc. as well as wheelchair handles, walkers, headboards, nightstands, and nurse call buttons. In addition to our standard strong infection control practices, we will have a national company sanitize and deep clean high-touch areas in the Life Centre.

STAFF ARE WEARING PPE:

Employees who provide care in the Life Centre wear personal protective equipment (PPE) including a mask, gloves, goggles or a shield, and a gown.

HEALTH SCREENINGS:

Employees undergo a health screening and temperature check before they begin their shift at The Mather. In the Life Centre, staff are screened twice per shift for temperature changes and residents are screened twice per shift for temperature, respiratory status, and oxygen levels.

COVID-19 TASK FORCE:

The interdisciplinary task force of Mather senior leadership continues to meet regularly to implement proactive, decisive actions and discuss new protocols, policies, and procedures for implementation. The group closely monitors the CDC's recommendations, as well as those from state and local health agencies.

Please know that we are here for you. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (847) 492.4646, Maria Izokaitis at (847) 492.4642 or mizokaitis@thematherevanston.com, or email bewell@thematherevanston.com. We will respond as soon as we are able.

Thank you and please stay well.

Sincerely,
Deann Daniel
Executive Director