

May 22, 2020



Dear McLean Patients, Residents and Families,

More good news! On Monday, Hartford HealthCare's mobile team tested 39 *asymptomatic* residents in the Health Center. Yesterday we confirmed that all 39 tests came back negative. We remain vigilant in infection control practices and hand hygiene. We know that what we're doing – the precautions we are taking to keep our campus healthy and safe – is working!

To reinforce best practices on and off our campus, our campaign for staff called "Like a Chain, Together we are McLean Strong" kicked off on Wednesday with great success. Our staff is fighting the good fight both on campus and at home.

Today we are caring for 6 COVID-19 positive patients on Evergreen Way. Since our last communication we have had 4 additional residents recover and return to their home neighborhoods. Re-testing of those six patients will occur over the next few days to give us information on where these patients are on their road to recovery. Additionally, we have begun to do our own surveillance testing of asymptomatic residents on The Abernethy who have not been previously tested. This effort will complete all resident testing on The Abernethy. We are working with Hartford HealthCare's mobile team to schedule testing of assisted living residents who have not yet been previously tested in the next few weeks. We look forward to sharing those results with you when we have them.

During one of our Family Council meetings, we were asked an interesting question about why we think we are seeing good outcomes in our health center. Of course, we attribute our current status to consistent, effective infection control practices, but we've also increased the use of Guardian Air units in isolated COVID-19 positive patient rooms. These units work to clean the air and surfaces to help reduce the spread of the virus where we know it exists. While we are happy to report all good news, we know that we must continue in our efforts on every front in order to fully wipe out the virus on our campus.

And since we know that fresh air is so important, some residents have been enjoying fresh air in our courtyard and especially sitting around the new water feature. Warm sun and the soothing sound of softly rushing water provide important relaxation and calming benefits to our residents and staff – we love our outside space!

As we have since the beginning of this outbreak, we are relying on guidance and best practices put forth by our local and national health agencies regarding family visits. Based on current recommendations from CMS, we have suspended outside family visits, other than Hospice visits, until we receive written guidance from CT DPH.

We want to reassure you that our staff is working hard to connect with residents, offering kinds words of comfort and personal touches to help them feel safe and secure. We thank you for trusting us to be their families while asking you to remain at a distance. We continue to arrange for family window visits that can be 15-20 minutes based on our scheduling availability. Please reach out to Kathy Cookson to schedule. Please remember to give Kathy at least 48 hours' advance notice, kathy.cookson@mcleancare.org.

As we get ready to celebrate the Memorial Day holiday, we would like to take a moment to thank all those who've served and sacrificed to keep our country safe. We salute you.

Be well.



David Bordonaro
President



Lisa Clark
Vice President, Administrator of the Health Center