



August 21, 2020

Greetings,

I want to apologize if some of you heard about our positive COVID test during the Governor's Press Conference today. While I knew it was a possibility, I was hoping we would have time to notify all of you and all Linden families before the public was alerted. Alas, the best laid plans...

Thank you sincerely for your patience as we work through the retesting of our Linden neighbors today after the one positive COVID test result. Just to recap, earlier this week, we proactively tested all Linden residents and all staff working in or around Linden. A total of 259 tests were completed. Early this morning, we received the test results and one Linden resident tested positive for COVID. The resident is asymptomatic and has been moved to accommodations that will allow them to safely isolate with continued care.

Per Vermont Dept. of Health guidelines, all skilled nursing residents were retested today and will be tested again next week. All Linden staff will be retested again early next week as well. Even if the person who tested positive earlier retests negative, we will still continue to follow all precautions as if we have a positive case on campus.

I know this is extremely concerning to us all. But we have been planning for this scenario and feel like we have the situation well in hand. We have solid safety precautions in place and again **ask that everyone strictly follow them.** We are receiving helpful support from the Vermont Dept. of Health. And of course our team here at Wake Robin is excellent.

We already had a question today about what restrictions will be in place for Linden residents. While skilled nursing residents will all be restricted in their movements outdoors, Spruce and Balsam residents will still be allowed to

walk alone outdoors, masked, of course. So please don't be alarmed if you see one of our Spruce/Balsam neighbors outside. The fresh air is very therapeutic in stressful times as you all know! But please keep distanced from them for the time being.

Since the positive case was not in Independent Living, we are looking at what we can and cannot allow in the next few weeks.

Here is what we are asking for the few days anyway until the retests have been completed and results are back:

- **Masks are required at all times indoors or out! That means covering mouth AND nose.**
- **Physical distancing is required at all times**
- We are suspending dining/drinking gatherings with four or fewer people for the moment.
- We will cease any and all visiting on campus for the moment.
- IL residents will be allowed to leave campus ONLY for medical appointments, prescription pickups and essential grocery shopping. And honestly, if you can order online from Shelburne Market or Instacart, that would be preferred for the next several days. Please do not leave campus by car for any other reason at this time. If you have a critical need other than medical appointments, prescription pickups (preferably drive through) or essential grocery shopping, please email me to discuss.
- IL residents may continue to walk in the woods or down at Meach Cove, bike ride, kayak, play tennis, pickleball, billiards, lawn games, exercise as long as you are doing it **masked and distanced**.
- Grocery transfers/other deliveries from family members at checkpoint are allowed. Instacart orders dropped at checkpoint are allowed.
- Housekeeping will continue but residents will need to vacate their home during that time. (NOTE: All housekeeping staff tested negative.)
- Dinners will continue to be delivered nightly.
- Above all, please remember to be kind and compassionate with each other. Over the long haul, our relationships will matter most.

I am hoping these restrictions can be eased again next week once we know more about the second round of test results. In the meantime, if you have questions, feel free to email me. I will try and respond as soon as I can. And if we have critical information to share in the meantime, we will send another RAVE message to alert you to either an Updated email or a scheduled Zoom call.

Also, don't hesitate to share this Update with your family members who may be concerned.

Thank you again everyone. We really appreciate your support and cooperation. And enjoy your blueberry treat this evening with your dinner!

Sincerely,
Martha

Martha

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Martha', written in black ink.

Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO