



May 15, 2020

COVID-19 Updates

Bayview was put to the test – literally! As enumerated last Friday, the Department of Health (DOH) tested the Skilled Nursing Facility residents for the presence of COVID-19 on May 5th, 2020. During the rest of the week, we all anxiously awaited, on pins-and-needles, for the results. The results finally arrived in the afternoon of Saturday, May 9th, 2020.

The results were very anti-climatic to say the least. Out of 33 tests conducted, three (3) results came back negative for the presence of COVID-19. The laboratory stated, the rest of the tests, 30 results, did not contain enough sample to conduct an accurate test. These samples were obtained by the DOH, not by Bayview staff. Knowing these samples were obtained by trained and qualified experts, our Clinical and Executive leadership teams were highly disappointed. We knew, as outlined last week, of the problematic nature of COVID-19 testing. Little did we know it would be this troublesome. On one hand, the results are NOT positive for the presence of COVID-19, which is great, and the results we did obtain are negative, which is even better. On the other hand, the high number of inconclusive and ambiguous results leave many more unanswered questions such as; what happened? Why did this happen? What do we do now?

Earlier this past week, the White House stated all Nursing Home residents and employees will be required to test for COVID-19 nationwide. Specifics of this edict have not been outlined from the Centers for Medicare Services, the Centers for Disease Control, or the Department of Social and Health Services. We are keeping up with the latest information and will continue to inform you of any requirements as they come.

I relay this information to you as supportive evidence of Bayview's progressive and proactive approach to COVID -19. Bayview stays ahead of the curve, implementing programs and policies before they are required or even recommended by government agencies. Our next steps in testing include obtaining clarifying information and answers to our questions from the Department of Health, and re-testing of residents whom have given consent for such testing. Then, we will begin obtaining scheduling information to screen our employees who work in the Skilled Nursing Facility. Please remember, the requirements are mandates from the White House, the Centers for Disease Control, the Centers for Medicare Services, the Department of Social and Health Services, and the King County Department of Health, and require Skilled Nursing Facilities to conduct COVID-19 testing. Skilled Nursing Facility participation is not optional. Employee consent to testing IS optional. As always, we will keep you posted on the latest results and information as it becomes available.

Trending Questions:

“Now that non-essential appointments such as eye or dental appointments are available for scheduling, can I use this appointment to visit with my loved one?”



This question has identified a clearly dangerous problem with the Governor's "Safe-Start" program. When drafting his plan, the Governor failed to remember the effects of his plan on Senior Living Communities such as Bayview. Senior Living Communities continue to be viewed as an after-thought in governmental policy. Hospitals are the "Hero" and Skilled Nursing Facilities are the "Petri Dishes" of society. Senior Living Communities appear to fall somewhere in between, but are still forgotten when it comes to funding, support, and policy. As a result, Senior Living Communities are now place at a grave risk of exposure as some families and / or residents view this subject as a perfect way to circumvent visitor restriction mandates through the guise of "Resident Appointments".

I don't know if I have stated for the record that I abhor these restrictions myself; especially visitor restrictions. I see the potential negative effects these restrictions have on all of us and it bothers me. Restrictions are not fun for any of us, and as time marches on, the restrictions grow tiresome, and burdensome. However, I continue to preach the adherence of the restrictions to save human life. We must not grow weary! State COVID-19 rates of exposure have not leveled off. People are still being exposed at alarming rates, and many people are still dying from this unrelenting virus.

For us, nothing has changed with the "Stay-at-Home" restrictions. Therefore, we must continue to remain vigilant in minimizing our risk of exposure. This includes non-essential appointments. Bayview has gone through great efforts to initiate our Telehealth program. I am proud to say, a few residents of the Skilled Nursing Facility conducted their first Telehealth appointments this past week with resounding success! I look forward to more residents enjoying the benefits of our Telehealth program. It is truly a unique and amazing experience!

Let's stay strong in our resolve together! If it is necessary that an appointment must occur outside of Bayview and you are unable to use Bayview transportation, please inform Jamie Hart, Heather Smith, Pamela Yeo, Janice Pate, or myself prior to the appointment. We will make every effort to mitigate your risk of exposure while you are out at the appointment. Thank you for your understanding. Thank you for your commitment in minimizing the risk of exposure. Thank you for your vigilance. Thank you for your patience. Thank you.

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