



THE VILLAGE AT
AUGSBURG
A National Lutheran Community

Date: April 21, 2021
To: Augsburg SNF and AL Residents and Families
From: Rusty Mitchell, Executive Director
Subject: Path Forward Community Update

We have reached the point of the year when it is sunny and warm one day, and gloomy and chilly the next – a fitting metaphor for the continued battle with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have received all skilled nursing and assisted living resident test results and are happy to report that everyone is negative. We expect to have the team member results back today or tomorrow and will immediately alert you if anyone tests positive.

We did learn this morning through the Department of Health that a hospice partner has tested positive for the virus. We are closely monitoring the residents who had direct contact with this individual and families have been notified. .

I realize many of you have significant concerns about the most recent positive cases we have had in our community. I understand the concern, however, realistically, we expect we will have small outbreaks as the state and the country continue to battle the virus. Most residents and team members have been vaccinated, and there are a few important points to remember with the vaccine:

- At the time of this memo, we cannot require the vaccine. We will not be surprised if eventually the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) not only allows, but also mandates we make the vaccine a requirement. This would not be a first for us, as CMS mandates the flu shot every year.
- Even if you have received the vaccine, there is still a chance you can contract the virus. Importantly, we have seen when vaccinated individuals contract the virus, they are not getting sick or they get a very mild case, which is part of what the vaccine is supposed to do.
- We continue to enforce mask guidelines, including when vaccinated family members visit their loved one. It is important to remember we are highly regulated by state and federal agencies to ensure the safety of residents and masking requirements, regardless of vaccination status are still in effect. We are consistently monitoring and evaluating regulations and will ease restrictions when it is allowed.
- As of Monday, the vaccine is available to every American over the age of 16. We encourage everyone to consider getting the vaccine to help us return to normal as soon as possible.

For **assisted living** residents and families, during this outbreak the only outdoor visitation we can allow are porch visits. Porch visits will be available by appointment Monday through Friday. We will make every effort to accommodate some pre-scheduled porch visits on the weekends as staffing allows. To schedule a visit, contact Cathy Sayers at csayers@thevillageataugsburg.org.

To schedule a visit with a **skilled nursing** resident (virtual, glass door or garden), visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/snfvisits>.

All updates may be found online at www.thevillageataugsburg.org/pathforward.

We thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

MEMORANDUM