



THE VILLAGE AT  
**AUGSBURG**  
A National Lutheran Community

Date: December 21, 2021  
To: SNF Residents and Families  
From: John Ottena, Healthcare  
Administrator  
Subject: Path Forward Community Update

As news has started to roll in regarding the Omicron variant of COVID-19, The Village at Augsburg is taking proactive measures in an attempt to lessen the impact of this new variant at our community. The data on the variant is still coming in, but we are seeing a much higher rate of transmission. We hope and pray that the news that the variant may be less severe will remain true.

We are immediately going back to testing our team members weekly for the virus, even though we require the COVID-19 vaccine. This will allow us to quickly identify any new cases in team members and take the proper precautions to protect residents. We will also test residents as needed, should we identify any positive cases in team members, or if a resident is showing symptoms. As a reminder, team members have remained masked throughout the entire pandemic. An additional measure we feel is necessary at this moment is tightening up transportation out of the community. Until further notice, Augsburg will only provide transportation to medical appointments.

Unfortunately, late yesterday we learned a team member who works in skilled nursing has tested positive. We have performed contact tracing and are testing nine residents. If your loved one is being tested, you will have already received a call from us at the time of this memo.

As we head into the next two weeks over Christmas and New Year's, we have decided to incorporate additional measures for visitation to protect the health of residents as much as possible. This will require advanced planning and preparation for families, so we know how many people to expect and when.

#### **Holiday Visitation Guidelines:**

- All visitors **must be masked in the hallways of the community regardless of vaccination status**. Once you have arrived in your loved one's residence, those who are fully vaccinated may remove their masks.
- We do not **require** a negative COVID test before your visit, however, we certainly would **recommend** taking that additional step to ensure the safety of residents.
- If you are feeling sick at all, please do not come to the community, even if you think it is not COVID-19. The symptoms for the Omicron variant are milder and we do not encourage playing the guessing game, and recommend you immediately are tested if you are feeling at all unwell.
- Visitors are not permitted to be in community common areas, including dining rooms.
- All visitors must be symptom screened upon arrival to the community.
- Visitors must only visit their loved one and cannot go from room-to-room. We also ask you limit interaction with team members and remain socially distanced as you do so.
- While traveling from the entrance to your loved one's residence, please remain socially distanced from other residents and team members in the hallways.

# MEMORANDUM

- In order to maintain social distancing in assisted living and skilled nursing rooms (especially those rooms which are semi-private) we must have an idea of how many people will be in the building and when. We ask you plan for no more than four visitors per resident at one time. **Please fill out the attached form and return to our social workers (Monica Mulder and Ellie Somers) at [mmulder@thevillageataugsburg.org](mailto:mmulder@thevillageataugsburg.org) and [esomers@thevillageataugsburg.org](mailto:esomers@thevillageataugsburg.org).**
- Children are allowed to visit as long as they are able to keep a mask on.
- If you would like Augsburg to provide you and any additional visitors with a meal, we can accommodate for \$15 per person. This information is included on the form you can provide to Monica and Ellie:
  - **This information must be provided by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22 (for Christmas) and Wednesday, December 29 (for New Year's) in order for us to provide additional meals. We will not be able to accommodate requests after this time.**

Before I close out this memo, I'd like to acknowledge that everyone at Augsburg understands we've reached a point of pandemic exhaustion. This is the last thing that any of us wants to be dealing with right now. We know the extra planning and adhering to all the measures we have had to put in place is frustrating. Please know our number one priority is keeping all Augsburg's residents healthy. All we do is in consideration of what is in their best interest.

Once again, we thank you for your continued patience, understanding and cooperation. We look forward to seeing many of you next week.

All updates can be found online at <https://www.thevillageataugsburg.org/covid-19-updates/>