



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

A Note from Steve Jewell, Executive Director:

We learned today that a resident in the Nursing Wing tested positive for COVID-19. The resident went to the hospital and may later be transferred to Huntersville Oaks' COVID-19 special care unit. When administered a COVID-19 test late last week, this individual's results were negative. The Pines administered a second test because the individual began to exhibit symptoms of concern.

We are actively exploring the feasibility of regular testing of residents and staff in the Nursing and Assisted Living Wings. Regardless of how that might develop, we will continue to promptly test any resident or staff member who exhibits symptoms of concern.

At this time, The Pines will not be universally testing residents of Independent Living for COVID-19. Access to testing capacity in our area, albeit better than two weeks ago, is still judiciously controlled, and it was no small effort for us to test all residents and staff involved in the Health Center. We are actively engaged with our state association to encourage state officials to direct adequate testing resources to the long-term care sector, rather than be focused primarily on the acute care sector. We are similarly engaged with our national association at the federal level. Additionally, we are frequently in touch with local health systems, commercial labs, and both state and county health departments regarding our coronavirus status and appropriate next steps.

We are engaged with all of the parties mentioned above on a daily basis, seeking knowledge and leading edge thinking and advice for an ever-evolving situation. We are committed to making decisions for the right reasons and keeping residents informed and we will continue to operate The Pines with the needs of residents always foremost.

Note: Beginning tomorrow, The Pines' COVID-19 Update will be again distributed on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule, unless there is a development that needs to be communicated sooner.