



8180 W. State Rt. 163
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
419-898-2851
www.riverviewhealthcare.com

September 2, 2020

Riverview Healthcare Campus Residents, Representatives, Staff and Contractors,

Riverview continues to have no confirmed, suspected or probable cases of COVID-19 on our campus! We thank our staff for all their due diligence in keeping this virus away from our facility. This letter is to inform you about changes from the Centers of Medicare/Medicaid Service (CMS) regarding COVID-19 testing in nursing homes.

Our facility is currently testing every other week, per the direction of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). This testing is done with a nasal swab and results are returned to us in approximately 5 days. The state only requires the facility to test our staff members, as an additional precaution to our staff and their clients, Ottawa County Senior Resources has also been testing with us, during these times. Our last testing was done Friday, August 28, and all results have come back negative! We will test again on Friday, September 11.

Recently CMS has also released their own testing schedule. This federal program is sending Point of Care Antigen Testing devices to all Nursing Homes in the country. The testing with this device is to be done based on the county the nursing home resides in COVID-19 positivity rating. A county whose rating is 5% or below only is required to test monthly with this device, if the rating is 5%-10% it is to be done weekly, and a rating over 10% requires testing twice per week.

At this time Riverview has not received our Testing Device. CMS has stated the facility must attempt to find a lab with a turnaround of 48 hours or less for results following testing. We have spoken with our partner hospital, Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton, as well as our local Ottawa County Health Department. At this time Riverview has not been able to secure a lab that can confirm they are able to turn over 150 test results in 48 hours. Due to this, Riverview is not required to test per the CMS guidelines at this time, but will continue to test every other week, per the guidelines of ODH.

If Riverview is able to find a lab with a 48 hour turnaround, or receives our testing device, we will begin testing following the CMS guidelines. One difference will be, while ODH left it up to the facilities about testing contractors, CMS requires any contractor with resident contact to

be included in this testing. We are in the process of reaching out to these contractors to find an acceptable way to ensure their testing is completed in compliance with this.

At this time, CMS is listing Ottawa County at a 5.6% positivity rating, which means we will be required to test weekly. This number may change as often as weekly, but we will continue to watch it!

One of Riverview and our Ottawa County Health Department's biggest concerns is that the Antigen testing devices have a 15% error rating. While our Health Department does not immediately count a positive Antigen test as a positive COVID-19 case, our direction from CMS is the facility should count it as if it is true positive. This means that if an employee tests positive on our antigen test, Riverview will be required to report to the state and federal government, as if we have a positive case in our facility. While this may not be true, Riverview intends to follow up any Antigen positives quickly with a more accurate/reliable test. We do believe even a false positive may halt our visitation for a bit, and will put us on the list of facilities who have COVID-19.

Testing will only be done for employees at this time, anytime a positive COVID-19 test occurs, there would be further testing for all employees and all residents. Contractors may test with our staff or will need to show proof of testing completed within 1 week of their visitation, prior to being in contact with residents.

We understand this information can be confusing and overwhelming. We want to be up front with all of you, so you are aware if Riverview has a positive test, what our next steps would be to prove if that test truly was positive.

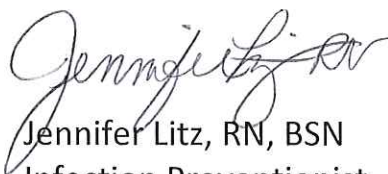
We thank you all for your understanding during these uncertain times. If you have any further questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to us!

Thank you,



Kendra M. German, LNHA
Administrator
Ext. 4020

kgerman@co.ottawa.oh.us



Jennifer Litz, RN, BSN
Infection Preventionist
Ext. 4039

jlitz@co.ottawa.oh.us



Lisa Dobbelare, RN
Director of Nursing
Ext. 4024

ldobbelare@co.ottawa.oh.us