



TO: Mill Street Tenants & Family Members
From: Mick Siems, Director
DATE: January 7, 2021
RE: COVID vaccine, visitation, computer issues

Dear Mill Street Tenants & Family Members,

Our pharmacy provider (Thrifty White) alerted us today that our allotted shipment of the Moderna vaccine is on it's way. For those who may not know, the Moderna vaccine is one of the two COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use in the United States. The vaccine is administered in two doses. We have scheduled next Thursday, January 14th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM to distribute the first dose of this vaccine to our tenants. The second dose will be given 28 days later.

It is our understanding that Essential Caregivers fall under the category of health care personnel (which is defined as any paid or unpaid people serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients). We checked with Thrifty White to confirm their willingness to vaccinate our Essential Caregivers at the same time as our tenants. Their response was "yes"; they just need to know a number. If you are an Essential Caregiver and would like to receive the vaccine at this time, please let us know by calling our main telephone number (218-739-2900).

If you have not yet signed up to become an Essential Caregiver, the process for becoming one is pretty simple. Documentation of a negative COVID test is required prior to your first visit. Once you have that in place, you can contact Tara (218-736-8558) to schedule an orientation. We then require documentation of a negative COVID test every other week at a minimum. If you would like to take part in our weekly testing you are welcome to do so. Our testing dates are Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM and Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 AM.

Essential Caregivers are allowed to come daily, with visits lasting up to three hours in length. The hours are from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM most week days and from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM one Saturday per month. **Pre-scheduling a visit is required** by calling Jake (218-739-6827). Twenty-four hours advance notice is preferred. Please note that we do have a restriction of having no more than 8 caregivers in the building at the same time.

We continue to follow the guidelines from the MN Department of Health related to in-house visitation. This guidance requires that the facility be COVID-free, to include both tenants and staff, for 14 continuous days before in-house visitation is allowed. We recently had one staff member test positive, so in-house visits will not be available until later this month at the earliest.

There has been no guidance as to what changes can be expected, if any, once the second dose of the vaccine has been delivered. Once we receive that guidance and feel comfortable that the prevalence of COVID in our community has stabilized or, better yet, declined, we will consider opening up to additional visitors.

To give you an idea of what our COVID testing journey has been like, whole-house testing began in late July after one of our tenants tested positive during an ER visit. Since then, weekly testing has taken place for all staff. All tenants have been tested the majority of these weeks as well. To date we have ran over 2,300 tests with 15 results coming back positive (2 tenants, 1 essential caregiver, and 12 staff). Each of the three tenants who tested positive spent 10 to 14 days on our COVID wing and, fortunately, never showed any symptoms. You are welcome to visit our website (www.millstreet.org) to view our current situational update, our COVID testing results, plus any important news and/or emerging issues.

Computer Issues - Lake Region Healthcare recently experienced some unidentified network activity which has led to extended computer downtime. While we are still working to determine the scope of the attack, at this time we are not aware of any protected health information that has been breached/compromised.

Unfortunately, the information that we use to put together our monthly invoices was deleted and, to date, non-retrievable. Our Business Office staff have been diligently working and sorting through paper copy to re-create our monthly invoices. As you can imagine, this process has been very time consuming and has resulted in our invoices going out late this month. We are sorry for the delay and appreciate your patience.

As always, the health and well-being of both our staff and our tenants continues to be our highest priority. If you have any questions or concerns, you are invited to contact me at 218-736-8590. Thank you!