

MARIAN MANOR HEALTHCARE CENTER

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August 27, 2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

We want to provide you with an update on the current status at Marian Manor HealthCare Center regarding the COVID-19 outbreak including the number of confirmed cases as well as efforts we are undertaking. As always, the safety and well-being of our residents is our top priority. Please know that we are doing everything we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within our facility.

Since May 8, 2020, Marian Manor HealthCare Center has had a total of 32 confirmed cases of COVID-19 between residents and staff. All have been asymptomatic except this week when we did have one cluster of residents and staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms within 72 hours of each other. To date, residents and staff have been tested 10 times for a total of 1,597 tests. Of this total, 1,565 tests were negative and 32 tests have been positive for a positive rate of 2.0% which is below the state and county average although we truly wish it could be even lower.

Here is a more detailed update regarding the prevalence of COVID-19 currently in our Center. As of today:

- Eight residents and two staff have confirmed COVID-19 in the August 24, 2020 testing. Except for four asymptomatic individuals, this group did show respiratory symptoms and were in droplet precautions while waiting for test results.
- When a resident's test is positive, we notify the resident and their representative(s) of their condition and implement protocols for their care and treatment. Positive residents were transferred to hospitals within the region and staff began their quarantine period at home.
- 141 residents and staff tested negative for COVID-19 in the last testing. All residents who tested negative will be tested this Friday, August 28th. Testing within 4-5 days of a previous test has been a successful way to treat and isolate other asymptomatic individuals minimizing further virus spread in the building.

Marian Manor HealthCare Center is staying in very close communication with North Dakota Department of Health to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps under current circumstances including return to work guidance for staff who test positive. We also follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for symptoms. For example, staff is screened upon arrival to work including taking their temperature along with answering six questions related to COVID symptoms. Recently this was changed to taking temperatures twice a day.
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building.
- Testing staff and residents for COVID-19 weekly based on current protocols and availability of tests

- Postponing or carefully limiting communal activities including social distancing and other infection control precautions. Residents are receiving room trays for meals and Activities are provided individually or as a hallway activity which means residents sit in their doorways to play a game such as BINGO.

Although being as transparent as possible, Marian Manor HealthCare Center cannot divulge specific information about the individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 due to government privacy requirements. We know you are concerned about your loved one, but it is crucial that we restrict visitation to reduce the spread of this virus to others. We will contact you directly if your loved one is suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.

We also understand that connecting with family members is incredibly important to our residents and especially as the outbreak in local communities and county continues on and on. Our staff has worked continuously to assist family members and encouraged them to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling, texting, or on social media. It was wonderful having families back when we were allowed to open up visitation on June 26th. Right now, we need to ensure resident safety and eliminate COVID again from our building especially with high number of cases in our community and in Morton County. For the immediate future, visitation needs to be limited to window visits, FaceTime and phone calls and to not offer outside visits at this time. We will let you know as soon as outside visits can be scheduled again.

The continued spread in the community and surrounding area does increase the chance the virus will work its way into our building. As we stress to the staff, we really need your help as well in battling COVID-19 and to prevent the spread in our community. Please continue to make safe choices in your daily life as well including wearing face masks, social distancing and hand hygiene so all of us can work together to beat this virus.

This is a difficult time for everyone. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus. You will continue to receive updates from us by email, text and phone. You are also invited to visit our website which is www.marianmanorhc.com or Facebook page for other updates and information.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or if you would like an update on the status of your loved one by calling 701-348-3107 and by emailing sgerving@marianmanorhc.com. Thank you for allowing us to care of your loved one and keep safe.

Sincerely,



Sandy Gerving, Administrator