

Justus

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE

November 2, 2020

As COVID-19 rages on and the general population experiences COVID-19 fatigue, our state has had a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths during the month of October. While this month's stats have been bleak there does seem to be hope on the horizon.

Vaccinations: The state is preparing to deploy the first round of vaccinations with priority given to senior living residents and staff. The federal government developed a partnership with two large pharmacies, and we are told the distribution could happen as early as the end of November. Our teams are signed up and ready.

National Guard Deployment: Due to the healthcare staff shortage, the requirements for staff to quarantine with symptoms and healthcare employees walking away from careers or positions in healthcare because they don't want to take the risk, the entire healthcare industry is experiencing a shortage of nurses and care staff. Consequently, a National Guard deployment will begin November 2 to 133 facilities across Indiana and deployments will continue through the end of December. Currently, none of our communities qualify for the first three deployments due to our low number of COVID-19 cases, but we will keep you updated.

Our hearts go out to communities experiencing high numbers of cases because we know it can happen so quickly and how this impacts staff, residents and families. With this in mind, we cannot become complacent and must continue to take the all necessary precautions:

1. Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.
2. Wear your mask the correct way. Residents should wear a mask when around others and when receiving care.
3. Avoid close contact inside and outside your home.
4. Avoid anyone who is sick.
5. Stay home when you are sick.
6. Get a flu shot.
7. Clean and disinfect often.
8. Follow the community restrictions and guidelines.

Since it is likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both spread this fall and winter, it is especially important to do all you can to protect you and your family against the flu by getting a flu vaccine in addition to practicing the good health habits mentioned above.

STATE & FEDERAL GUIDANCE UPDATES

Once or twice a week our leaders from the Justus communities meet with corporate leadership to review, discuss and implement policies and procedures reflecting the new guidance from the CDC and ISDH. This past week there were several updates:

1. Communities are encouraged to allow people to move in because there are people who need the housing and services provided. However, new residents in licensed care environments must be placed in transmission-based precautions for 14 days and independent living residents are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. New residents must also test negative for COVID-19 prior to move in.
2. Employees providing direct care (closer than 6 feet) are now required to wear face shields or goggles in addition to a mask. This includes nurses, care staff and housekeeping.
3. Residents are required to wear a mask when staff are within six feet.
4. N95 or approved KN95 masks are now required for staff when caring for someone who is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.
5. We must continue staff screening and temperature checks at the start of each shift and must not permit entry if any symptoms of COVID-19 are present. There have been multiple outbreaks in our state due to employees being allowed to work with symptoms that do not include a fever.
6. Residents are now required to wear medical/surgical masks in the salon but may wear cloth masks in other circumstances.
7. Single use gowns should be used in suspected and confirmed cases unless conservation is necessary.
8. Communities have many reporting requirements: Use of BINAX rapid tests, EMR resource (PPE supplies and more), Redcap report for positive cases, Ombudsman report.
9. New guidelines on how and when a rapid point of care test can be used.
10. There are new required screening questions for staff and residents. We will be updating our electronic screening form.

CURRENT COVID-19 STATS

For the past several months we have been so fortunate to have had no COVID positive staff or resident cases in any of our communities. This past week however, we had an outbreak in the Carmel memory care and six residents and two staff members tested positive. It is especially challenging in memory care when residents need to go out the hospital and typically cannot wear masks. Our team is being diligent about keeping the positive COVID residents separated from the non-infected residents. However, when an outbreak happens, the whole community is required to close visitation, group activities and communal dining. Our regional team usually visits all Justus communities to support the community teams. As an extra safety precaution, regional staff who were at Carmel during the outbreak will only serve at Carmel during the required quarantine time period as not to expose other communities. Other regional staff will serve the remaining communities but not go to Carmel.

APPRECIATION & CONGRATULATIONS

To All

Thank you for your willingness to take precautions and cooperate with the safety guidelines and restrictions as we all work together to keep residents, employees and loved ones safe.

To Our Teams

- Join us in expressing appreciation to our committed teams for their tireless dedication and resilience. Many are serving with a smile while working overtime and making countless personal sacrifices.
- Thanks, and congratulations to all the Justus teams for following infection control procedures and protocol. All communities have been surveyed by the ISDH on Infection Control and found to be in complete compliance.

- Thank you to our Life Enrichment and Fitness teams for continuing to find creative ways to keep residents engaged and active.

For current Fitness and Life Enrichment opportunities, sign up for the daily updates:

Woodland Terrace of Carmel: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/0vZ2BLy>

Woodland Terrace of New Palestine: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/FPdnL8N>

Crestwood Village South: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/ulMiclH>

Crestwood Village North: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/xLXXRNn>

To Woodland Terrace of New Palestine

A special shout out to this team for receiving The Best of Indy Awards for Best Assisted Living Community!



While this is a trying time for all, it is a time to be grateful for the many blessings we do have, to work together and encourage one another, to take care of ourselves and make healthy choices and to be patient with one another. Thank you for placing your trust in us as we strive to make our Justus communities a place where both staff and residents thrive. We look forward to when we can open our doors again with warm hospitality to all our family, friends and partners.

Warm regards,

Justus Leadership