



## HEALTH SERVICES CENTER

721 Harrison Ave  
Claremont, CA 91711

Tel: (909) 399-5535

Fax: (909) 399-5556

[www.pilgrimplace.org](http://www.pilgrimplace.org)

07/24/20

Dear residents, family members, responsible parties and staff:

With this update, I would like to inform you of the Covid-19 testing that has occurred to date at Pilgrim Place's Health Services Center. I will also review the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) testing requirements that we must follow as we cautiously move forward to protect the safety and well-being of our residents and staff during this pandemic.

**TESTING:** We initiated comprehensive baseline testing of all residents and staff on June 9<sup>th</sup> and repeated the process on June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and most recently on July 22<sup>nd</sup> (results currently pending). Two staff members were identified to be Covid positive on the June 9<sup>th</sup> testing and two additional staff tested positive on the June 18<sup>th</sup> test. All test results were negative on the July 1<sup>st</sup> test but the July 8<sup>th</sup> testing identified two staff with "abnormal" results; both staff re-tested negative twice respectively on each of their two confirmation follow up tests.

Due to the two abnormal results, our LAC DPH Nurse advised us to take precautionary actions as if both staff were positive. As a result, the residents who had close contact with the staff were cohorted (the act of grouping together people with like symptoms or diagnosis) to contain any potential spread of the virus if present. The need for cohorting required us to make room changes for some of these residents as well as other residents who had to be moved out of the cohorted area to avoid potential exposure. The residents who have been cohorted will be out of quarantine beginning Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

In spite of having four confirmed positive cases among our staff, we are very pleased to report that all "resident" test results to date (June 9<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>; July 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>) have been negative for the Covid virus. Considering the close contact required between care staff and residents and how easily this virus is known to be transmitted, this is a true testament to the infection control precautions being followed by all staff at all times while in the Health Services Center.

We are optimistically hoping to see results from the July 22<sup>nd</sup> testing as soon as July 24<sup>th</sup>. However, we have been informed that labs have been inundated with an extremely high case load of processing Covid-19 tests. Unfortunately, this could cause a delay in receiving our results in a timely manner. With respect to confidentiality, we will notify all residents, family/responsible parties and staff of any Covid-19 positive test results by 5:00PM the following day.

**On-going Testing Requirements:** The LAC DPH mandates that if one or more positive COVID-19 cases are identified among either staff or residents, the SNF must conduct comprehensive testing of all residents and staff to identify potential asymptomatic infections. All residents and staff who test negative are required to be tested weekly until there are at least 2 rounds of testing with no additional infections identified.

Once no new infections are detected for at least 14 days, the facility is required to conduct "Surveillance Testing". This includes testing of 25% of the health care staff weekly to complete 100% of all staff each month. In addition a random sample of at least 10 residents are required to be tested weekly.

**Pilgrim Place** continues to follow guidance from the CDC and CMS to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for symptoms
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building
- Testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols and availability of tests
- Postponing or carefully limiting communal activities including social distancing and other infection control precautions

We want to assure you that residents and family members will continue to be informed throughout this process. Although we are physically distanced we want to continue to facilitate social connections. Family members are encouraged to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling, texting, or on social media.

**Please contact Shawn Rollins, Activities Coordinator to schedule a video chat.**  
[srollins@pilgrimplace.org](mailto:srollins@pilgrimplace.org) 909-399-5542

The safety and wellbeing of our staff and residents is and will continue to be our top priority. We know that you may have questions and we encourage you to contact us. Please call us at **(909) 399-5550**, or visit our website [www.pilgrimplace.org](http://www.pilgrimplace.org) for COVID-19 updates.

Sincerely,

*Rich Rodas*

Rich Rodas  
Vice President of Health Services