



February 24, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Staff,

We have been notified that six residents in our licensed areas have tested positive for COVID-19. We have had no new staff cases since February 12.

We know that you have concerns regarding the isolation precautions, particularly since nearly every resident in the licensed areas has had both doses of the vaccine and is past the two-week waiting period needed for maximized protection. We have spoken with state and local health officials this week asking the same questions you are asking, and expressing similar frustrations with the isolations restrictions. We have received no new guidance, though the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has advised us that changes are forthcoming. I know you join me in hoping for more flexibility. With that being said, we are mandated to follow the guidance below until new information is provided. Please feel free to click on the following link for more information:

**Updated quarantine guidance for vaccinated persons.** This guidance states that vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) AND
- b. Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series AND
- c. Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

These updated quarantine criteria could be applied when considering work restrictions for fully vaccinated healthcare personnel with [higher-risk exposures](#) as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages. Of note, exposed healthcare personnel would not be required to quarantine outside of work.

***As an exception to the above guidance no longer requiring quarantine for fully vaccinated persons, vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should continue to quarantine following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This exception is due to the unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population, the higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with social distancing in healthcare settings.***

## Questions you may have:

**Will my family member be re-tested?** We are re-testing all residents that are asymptomatic, but a negative result does not change quarantine status. All tests are run twice before we receive a positive result to ensure accuracy. We fully understand that this does not seem to make sense; however, it is the guidance we are obliged to follow.

**Can residents continue to go to the dining room?** No, all meals will be served in their rooms.

**Can residents go to doctor's appointments?** You must call the doctor's office prior to the appointment to apprise them of the situation. The office will make the decision whether they will allow the visit.

**Can residents continue therapy?** Therapy will only continue for those in the Medicare beds and for those with critical needs as deemed by therapy and the Director of Nursing

**Will the beauty shop close for all or just the positive folks?** The beauty shop will be closed only for those who are under quarantine.

**What about family visits for non-positive residents?** We will continue to allow visits either behind Plexiglas or through windows.

We have notified public health officials as required, and continue to follow procedures recommended by the CDC and the local health department. We are taking every step as recommended by authorities to contain the spread.

Isolation precautions for the following locations at this time:

- 300/400- Isolation thru 3/8/21
- 100/200-Isolation thru 3/8/21
- 500/800- Isolation thru 3/8/21
- 600- Isolation thru 2/26/21
- Asbury Place- Isolation thru 3/8/21

I cannot begin to effectively communicate my personal frustration with current regulatory requirements. As always, we will update you via e-mail as well as on our website, [www.arboracres.org](http://www.arboracres.org).

Sincerely,



Andrew Applegate  
President/CEO

cc: Board of Directors