

The logo for Arbor Acres features the words "ARBOR" and "ACRES" stacked vertically in a blue, serif font. The text is enclosed within a stylized orange L-shaped frame that is open on the right and bottom sides.

ARBOR ACRES

To: Arbor Acres Resident, Families and Artists
From: Andrew Applegate, President/CEO
RE: COVID-19 Statistics
Date: September 17, 2021

A recent article in the Winston Salem Journal stated that Arbor Acres has the highest number of COVID-19 cases of the 13 long-term care facilities in the county. While the numbers in the article are accurate, I know many of you have heard the line, “If you torture the statistics, you can make them say anything!” Some context will help you truly understand how we are doing in our efforts to manage COVID-19.

The “real” number of cases: *Arbor Acres currently has one positive staff case and no resident cases.* That one staff case was in a fully vaccinated staff person who has mild symptoms.

So, what happened to the other cases? Mostly, they got better! While we have had seven “COVID-19 related” deaths, it is important to remember that a death within 12 weeks of testing positive is considered COVID-19 related. That means if I test positive and then pass away due to a traffic accident within 12 weeks, my death would be counted as COVID-19 related.

Why are our numbers high?

1. Since we are one of the largest retirement communities in Forsyth County, with more residents and staff than others, we are going to have more cases.
2. We report all cases regardless of whether the positive cases are in assisted living, skilled nursing, memory support or independent living. When you compare us to a stand-alone nursing home, our numbers are bound to be higher.
3. *Looking at this another way, “Why does Charlotte have more positive cases than Winston Salem?” More people, more likelihood of more positive cases.*

What is missing from the Department of Health’s information?

1. How many people are vaccinated? Currently about 99.97% of residents and 91% of staff have been vaccinated. Of course, by November 1, resident and staff vaccination rates will be nearly identical.
2. How many of the positive cases were breakthrough cases? As stated above, the single person in our community who currently has COVID had been fully vaccinated.

A couple of reminders:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been committed to being as transparent as humanly possible. If you, your family or a friend want to know the real situation, please visit <https://www.arboracres.org/covid-19-measures/> . Select the red hyperlink right above “Pandemic Updates” to see the latest accurate numbers.