



COVID-19 Testing of Residents and Team Members

June 1, 2020

Dear Haven and Terrace Responsible Party,

As the month of June begins, we look forward to warmer weather and being one-step closer to lessening restrictions at Valley View. In order for this to occur, we need to begin testing of residents and team members for COVID-19.

On May 12, 2020, Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine issued an advisory to nursing facilities that testing should begin to occur. The Department of Health wants organizations such as Valley View to use the testing to help identify asymptomatic team members and residents (those that are not appearing sick) so their care and contact with others can be reduced to minimize-eliminate the spread to others. A group of Valley View team members has been working on this plan and we are ready to begin our testing efforts the week of June 8, 2020. We have been successful in securing an alternative testing method to the NP swab that enters the nasal cavity. We will be using an oral swab along the gum line. This method of testing should prove to be tolerable to our resident population and will provide us with similar results/findings as the NP swab.

Our initial goal is to have all nursing care residents and nursing care team members tested. We would then plan for another round of testing that would include all remaining Valley View team members and Terrace residents. This second date of testing has yet to be determined.

In speaking with other retirement communities, we have learned that their testing has resulted in finding COVID-19 positive residents and team members. If we find the same to be true here, we have an advantage as we will initiate isolation precautions to those few residents and have team members quarantine at home until medically cleared to return.

We recognize that moving toward testing may make some nervous but there is benefit to knowing and being proactive in our response rather than waiting and only testing when someone shows symptoms and is not feeling well. This allows us to tackle it head-on and ultimately to keep more team members and residents healthy.

Please visit Valley View's website for pertinent updates as well as calling the main number (717) 935-2105 and press (9) for recorded updates.

Contact Geli Losch, alosch@vvrconline.org, Nan Yeater, nyeater@vvrconline.org or Nicole Sarver, nsarver@vvrconline.org with questions/concerns or call 717-935-2105.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole M. Sarver".

Nicole Sarver, CEO