

Goodwin House Public Statement | March 18, 2020

Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

Every day is a new day, especially now. We are grateful that we have no reported cases of COVID-19 within the Goodwin House family – residents, staff and members, as well as essential contractors and healthcare providers. We are thankful for everyone’s efforts to stay healthy.

On Monday, we learned that a family member of a Goodwin House Alexandria (GHA) resident tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, March 15. This individual had visited their parent on two occasions in the past two weeks, most recently on Friday, March 13, and is now self-isolating at home.

We have contacted and consulted with the Alexandria Health Department (AHD). At this time, AHD is not recommending the resident be tested, because the resident is not experiencing any symptoms.

The GHA resident is self-isolating in their apartment. Goodwin House clinic staff are monitoring the resident’s temperature and condition throughout the day. We are grateful that the resident has not experienced any COVID symptoms. We are also providing any support the resident needs during isolation.

We are not unique in having a situation of a potential exposure; nearly every type of organization in our society has faced this. We continue to build on our established best practices and infection precaution protocols, so we are fully prepared to act quickly to reduce any risks.

A question on our minds, and we can understand that it would be on yours as well, is whether the few residents and staff who had contact with the resident or the family member should self-isolate. The AHD reported that if contact is six feet apart and for a brief period of time (ten minutes or less), then those in contact with the resident or the family member do not need to self-isolate.

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*We are committed to keeping you, residents and staff healthy.
Please join us in our efforts to keep our community infection-free.*



Taking Our Infection Precaution Efforts Further

As we continue to address concerns and update our daily operations accordingly, here are some steps we've taken over the course of the past week:

- Introduced required health screening for staff and contractors. Everyone enters through the main lobby, where they answer health questions and have their temperature taken.
- Suspended communal dining. Meals are being prepared for pick-up. We've put signage on the floors to indicate a distance of six feet when there is a line and management is monitoring meal pick-up hours for social distancing. More grab-and-go options, as well as additional food staples, are being stocked in our onsite marketplaces.
- Postponed or cancelled any community events. Life Enrichment is introducing new ways for residents to stay engaged and active, including assisting anyone who needs it with technical support so they can video chat with loved ones.
- Asking our residents - following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and other public health organizations - to limit their movements and social interactions beyond our campuses unless it is absolutely necessary (needed/time-sensitive medical appointments, for example).

A sense of community keeps us connected and attentive to others and their needs. At times like this, even small gestures can make a big difference in someone's life. Two shining examples of togetherness were enjoyed just within the past 24 hours.

In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, dining staff donned large, green sequined bow ties throughout the day yesterday. They welcomed residents and staff alike with big smiles and hearty greetings, while maintaining social distance. The spirit of togetherness remains strong at Goodwin House, and we are incredibly grateful for that.

Family members visited one of our communities, with happy birthday wishes for a resident. Honoring our visiting protocols, they stood outside with a sign and balloons and sang "Happy Birthday" as the resident stayed in our vestibule. You can see a brief video of this special moment on our [Facebook page](#).

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