

Goodwin House Public Statement | Dec. 4, 2020

Update | Goodwin House Infection Precaution Efforts

Below, please read a letter that we distributed via email to families and friends of Goodwin House Residents on Friday, December 4, 2020.

The holiday season is upon us! Here we are in December, and the year that sometimes felt as though it would never end is coming to a close. As Liz Pomerleau, Director of Clinical Pastoral Education, commented during her blessing of the Gratitude Tree as it was planted at GHBC today, we have all been remarkably resilient during very difficult times. Let us hold on to that resilience in the months ahead as we look forward to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

New Cases in Context

In this week's Resident Update we offered some context for the recent positive cases on our campuses. We want to reassure you that our positivity rate remains very low, especially in contrast with the rates of the cities and counties that surround our campuses. Though we appreciate our low positivity rate, we still have positive cases – this compels us all to remain focused on practicing hand hygiene, proper mask wearing and social distancing. We are being extra vigilant in our disinfecting and cleaning protocols, and redoubling communications of protocols and best practices to our staff. We also continue to utilize contact tracing. Residents and staff who have had exposure to a positive case are contacted immediately and we are supporting them in their period of isolation.

New cases within the GHBC Health Care Center, including those of two residents, mean that the Health Care Center is now under quarantine. We know you join us in sending healing thoughts to those who tested positive.

Due to the new cases over the last two weeks, at GHA, Occoquan Small House, Powell Small House and Willis Small House are all under quarantine at this time. We hope it won't be long before we can allow visits to these residents again.

Purpose and Engagement

While we are redoubling our vigilance on our safety measures, we remain committed to ensuring residents have uplifting experiences. We've had several engaging events on our campuses this week. In the Resident Update, you'll see a photo of GHA residents admiring the holiday flower arrangements gifted to us by the Alexandria Garden Club. We raffled off 25 of the arrangements, receiving over \$325 in proceeds for the Arts Center. You can see more photos of this event and others [on our Facebook page](#).

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



Our Facebook page also shows photos of the planting of the Gratitude Tree at GHBC today. Throughout the month of November, residents had decorated the tree with ornaments that shared the things that have made them thankful this year. Residents and staff gathered to plant the tree on the GHBC grounds today. As we mentioned earlier, Liz Pomerleau offered a blessing for the tree, and residents took part in the planting.

Free COVID-19 Testing in Alexandria This Month

The City of Alexandria is offering free testing for COVID-19 on select dates this month. This is a great opportunity if you are planning to visit a loved one on our campuses.

As a reminder, visitors are required to have a negative active-virus COVID-19 test. GHBC visitors must bring a printed record of the test result & testing date when you arrive for your visit. GHA visitors must provide documentation of your test results at least 24 hours before your scheduled visit. If your test results are not received in advance of your visit, your visit will be cancelled. Results are good for:

- up to 7 days from the day the test was administered for visitors to residents in Assisted Living, Memory Support and Health Care Center
- up to 10 days from the day the test was administered for visitors to residents in Independent Living

Update on Quarantines

While the CDC has revised their guidance on quarantines from 14 days to 10 days, they made their revision based on an effort to get more people to follow their guidance—not because the risk factor had changed. Our safest approach is to continue to implement a 14 day quarantine for those residents who left campus to visit with loved ones over Thanksgiving weekend. For all other situations, we will continue to follow the Resident Guidelines.

Encouragement and Thankfulness

Many of the decisions we make for the safety of our residents and staff are difficult. We are encouraged by and thankful for the support we receive from you, residents and staff. Letters like the one you'll see in the Resident Update affirming these difficult decisions mean so much to us. As we move into the weeks and months ahead, we are grateful to have you with us for the journey. Please know that we are here for you, too.