



June 22, 2020

Dear All Residents of RiverWoods Exeter, Birch Hill and RiverWoods Durham,

**RWD**

Over the weekend we were informed that an independent living resident from RW Durham tested positive for COVID-19. This resident had been offsite for several days and has been quarantining since return on June 7. The resident was tested on June 13 and received results Saturday. While this positive test is disappointing news, there are two good things to note. First, the resident is completely asymptomatic. Second, the risk of transmission within our RWD community is quite low due to the quarantine guidelines we have in place. We are very pleased that the quarantine / testing process alerted us to this issue in the safest possible way.

Upon learning of the positive case, the RWD leadership team immediately put a service adjustment plan into place and secured testing for all residents and staff of RWD. The staff testing should be completed by Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the resident testing will happen onsite on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The RWD residents will quarantine in their apartments until test results are received.

**BH**

Last Friday we received the results from our state testing of the Birch Hill Health Center residents and staff. The state surveillance testing at Birch Hill tests all health care residents who had not previously tested positive (17) and 100% of all workers in the healthcare center (58). The test results showed two additional residents tested positive (both asymptomatic), and one health care staff member tested positive (also asymptomatic). We are still awaiting one more staff result. While we certainly root for 100% negative testing, this is real progress for Birch Hill, and we look forward to the “recovery” of these two additional residents and one staff member.

## RWE

RiverWoods Exeter performed its second round of state surveillance testing June 17-19. We have received about one third of the results so far, all negative. As we have not had a positive case in the RWE health centers, the state surveillance testing tests 10% of the RWE health care residents (14) and 100% of the health care workers (283). We will keep you apprised of the results.

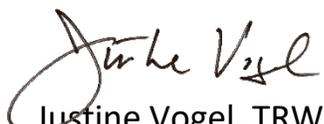
We continue to watch our statewide and regional case counts, and the news there is good. New Hampshire reported less than 1,000 active cases on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and that number has been steadily falling from the high of 2,290 active cases on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Exeter and Durham continue to report low active case counts (Exeter <5 and Durham = 7) and Manchester had 178, much reduced from 534 active cases from four weeks ago.

We are going to be in this for a while, and as we have said before, every four weeks or so the scene seems to change a bit. Four weeks ago, the average “new cases” was just over 80 cases per day, and for the past seven days the average has been 34 cases per day. That is real progress, and things are definitely moving in the right direction, but we are not quite there yet. Nationwide case counts continue to climb in 23 states, and this weekend’s news out of RWD is a reminder that we need to stay vigilant.

As we look forward to relaxing our guidelines and restrictions in the coming weeks regarding leaving and returning to the community, we have to remember that until there are no cases, and/or an effective vaccine, there is no way to fully *eliminate* risk if we are out in the “real world.” We can, however, *mitigate* risk in our communities by maintaining the proper social distancing of 6 feet, wearing a mask (particularly if we are or may be in a situation that will not allow for proper social distancing) and consciously washing our hands. These are small things that we can do to really reduce risk for ourselves and the community.

More to come as the week moves on, and until then, stay healthy my friends!

Stay healthy my friends.

  
Justine Vogel, TRWG CEO