

Coronavirus Update, Friday, May 8

We continue closely monitoring the residents and staff at Good Samaritan Center and Dacier Manor and we are grateful that there are no new known cases. We are pleased to report that three staff members who previously tested positive for COVID-19 have now been cleared by health officials with each receiving two negative tests 24 hours apart. The other two staff members and resident remain quarantined. There are also no known cases among members and staff in independent living.

While the Governor has begun to ease a limited number of restrictions in the state, he has also affirmed the precautions seniors should take to reduce their risk. And he has continued all restrictions related to nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Currently at ACV, we are focused on determining, within the Governor's guidelines, what restrictions we can ease on campus, while limiting risk. Due to the vulnerability of the community, we will continue to go slower than the rest of the state. As we watch how things progress around the state, we hope that within the next week or so we can begin to ease a few restrictions on campus.

This will not include reopening the campus, but will relate only to those restrictions affecting members. Things like reopening the dining room with safely distanced dining and gatherings of groups of less than 10 members. But these are not in place yet.

There are 145 confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Suwannee County so we continue to ask that everyone follow the guidelines and directives that have been put in place. Maintain appropriate distances, follow good hygiene practices, stay home except for essential needs, wear a mask and limit travel and visitors. We know how difficult these directives are especially with this being Mother's Day weekend, but all of us working together have helped to keep the community safe and we ask that you continue to be respectful and follow these guidelines.

We still require members to contact your Service Coordinator before admitting anyone from outside of ACV to your home. Likewise, if you are planning to leave the Live Oak area, please notify your Service Coordinator as well. Advanced notice on both of these issues will speed up the process.

The greatest risk to the community comes from the virus being brought in by someone from the outside. A number of people who test positive are symptom free, so even though your loved one or friend may not think they have COVID-19, they can still be a carrier of the virus. Remember, you may be able to withstand the effects of the virus, but your neighbor may not. We are in this together and we are dependent upon one another.

We have been blessed in our efforts to remain relatively safe here in Dowling Park. Please continue to pray for the protection of this community and for all of those who live and serve here.

As always, for questions about your particular situation, contact your Service Coordinator. The next scheduled update will be Monday May 11.