

Coronavirus Update, Friday, December 18

Regretfully, two Good Samaritan Center residents recently test positive for Covid-19. Both have been transferred to our isolation unit and all other residents are being retested today.

Due to the high positivity rate in the county, twice a week testing of employees of Good Samaritan Center is mandated and we learned this week of three positive tests among the staff. Two employees were asymptomatic and the other is part time and has not worked for over two weeks. All three employees have isolated and will not return to work until cleared by health officials.

Due to these positive cases, the Health Department has recommended that we quarantine GSC for 14 days. That means that we will be unable to host any in person visits until at least December 31. We are keenly aware how disappointing this is for our residents and their families, especially at Christmastime. The staff will certainly work with families to coordinate window and virtual visits. Please keep both the residents and staff in your prayers during this challenging time.

We know of no cases of the virus among the members or staff at Dacier Manor.

In independent living, we know of no new cases of the virus among the members. The previously reported husband and wife in independent living remain isolated awaiting clearance from health officials.

One new employee in independent living is isolated because of symptoms. This individual is out awaiting test results and will not return until cleared. One previously reported employee also remains out because of a previous positive test.

As shown by the increase in cases here at ACV, the virus remains active in the community around us. Many are out participating in holiday events and shopping in crowded stores. As the cases are spiking around us, this increases risks individually and for this community. I cannot overstress the importance of continuing to take this situation seriously. Since our last update, there have been 136 new cases reported in Suwannee County for a total since March of 3,614.

Please follow the guidelines that have been put in place both on campus and off. Maintain appropriate distances, wear a mask, and follow good hygiene practices. If you are experiencing any symptoms of the virus, stay home, contact your healthcare provider and then your Service Coordinator. It takes all of us doing our part to limit the risk. We thank you for your continued efforts. Now is not the time to let our guard down. Please remain vigilant.

There is much in the news about the vaccine. Good Samaritan Center and Dacier Manor are in the priority group and we have registered to be a recipient. We do not have a date yet but hope it

will be soon. Currently, independent living is not included in the initial priority groups. We will share more information as it becomes available.

As always, for questions about your particular situation please contact your Service Coordinator.

The next scheduled update will be Thursday, December 24.