

March 26, 2020

We received confirmation that a Berman Commons weekend Memory Care team member tested positive for COVID-19. This team member has not worked any shifts at Berman Commons since March 14th, nearly 14 days. This individual is currently isolated at home and, per Jewish HomeLife policy, will not be allowed to return without written clearance from her doctor and negative COVID tests.

A few memory care residents had recently been put on precautionary isolation due to elevated temperature. We received confirmation that the four of the five residents who have been isolated in our memory care at Berman Commons tested positive for COVID-19.

In anticipation of this devastating outcome, we had already put an action plan in place, which included isolating the other memory care residents in their rooms for dining and activities; though no other residents are showing symptoms. This will continue for a minimum 14 days, assuming no more residents show symptoms.

Although there is no evidence of any exposure in our assisted living floors and none of the assisted living residents are currently on isolation for symptoms, we have made the difficult decision of discontinuing group dining and activities for these residents. We have directed all residents to isolate in their rooms, and will provide room service for all meals. Dining staff will begin this process in the morning. We will do our best to provide low risk engagement opportunities such as using our in-house TV channel to broadcast discussions, museum tours and other virtual content.

We have also put in place additional safeguards including but not limited to the following:

- We will take vital signs every shift for all residents as a way to assure no symptoms, track trends, and to catch any status changes early
- We will no longer allow anyone outside of staff in the community unless it is a true emergency. The ONLY exceptions will be medical professionals and private duty sitters that already have an established relationship with the resident and the community.
- All packages will be quarantined outside the front door for 24 hours, then sprayed with an anti-viral solution before being brought into the community.
- Day shift team members (from 8:00am to 6:00pm) will be rounding every two hours with anti-viral cleaners, cleaning all commons areas and focusing on hot spots such as door handles, door frames, elevators, handrails, etc.
- We contracted with a company to perform anti-viral fogging treatments of all memory care apartments. The fogging agent is safe for humans and will only displace residents for about 10-15 minutes. The residents will be supervised by team members during that time.

We are doing everything we can to ensure we stop the spread of COVID-19 within our Berman Commons family including strictly adhering to all recommendations from our Medical Director and medical advisors, as well as the CDC and Department of Community Health.

Developments are changing day by day, minute by minute. Our focus remains on the health and well-being of our community. We know this is a difficult time for everyone. We want to make residents, their families, and our dedicated team members aware of this situation and reassure everyone that we are on top of it.

Sincerely,

Harley Tabak, President & CEO
Jeff Gopen, Chief Operating Officer