

## Dugan

December 29, 2021

Dear Elders and Family Member of Dugan,

Dugan has remained free of COVID-19 cases for the past four months. Unfortunately, we have been notified that an employee from Dugan has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The employee is quarantined at home and is receiving appropriate care. We continue to follow the CDC's criteria for return to work for all employees.

We closely adhere to the routine testing policy for elders and employees as laid out by CMS and the MSDH. Today we completed this testing for all elders and employees and have no additional cases to report. All elders and other employees have tested negative for the virus.

We have notified public health officials and are following all recommendations provided by CMS and the Mississippi State Department of Health. Please note that the MSDH defines an outbreak in long-term care facilities as a single positive case among elders or employees.

As per recent MSDH guidance, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are rising rapidly in the state as the Omicron variant spreads. Masks should be worn indoors in public places to reduce the risk of transmission. As always, be tested if you feel sick, talk to a doctor about appropriate treatment and remain at home if you test positive.

Group gatherings and indoor activities can be major contributors of COVID-19 transmission. Please keep these gatherings few and small.

Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Everyone aged 5 and older should be fully vaccinated, and those 18 and over should receive a booster at the appropriate time.

While we are currently open to indoor visits, it is critical that everyone take every measure possible to protect the elders and our team members. Please be mindful of the level of virus spread within your community and utilize all stated safety measure before visiting us at Dugan.

Family and staff members can continue to obtain regular COVID-19 updates by calling the hotline at 662-844-8977, Ext. 231 or by going to [mss.org/Dugan](http://mss.org/Dugan) and clicking on the COVID-19 Update Button. As always, if you have any questions, please contact the Dugan team at 662-494-3640.

Sincerely,



Shelley Tuggle  
Dugan Interim Executive Director