

Hello Friends! This is your Dugan COVID-19 Update for December 30, 2021.

We have been notified that three employees from Dugan have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The employees are quarantined at home and are receiving appropriate care. We continue to follow the CDC's criteria for return to work for all employees.

As of today, we have a total of 4 employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past few days. Currently everyone is either asymptomatic or only exhibiting mild symptoms. All other elders and 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. We closely adhere to the routine testing policy for elders and employees as laid out by CMS and the MSDH.

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are rising rapidly in the state as the Omicron variant spreads. As per recent guidance issued by the MSDH, 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.

Bless you and be safe!