

Hello Friends! This is your Dugan COVID-19 Update for January 16, 2023

We have been notified of one elder from Dugan who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The elder is quarantined and is receiving appropriate care.

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.

In this new year, it is important to remember that COVID-19 and many other viruses and colds are still active in the community at large. Many people have some protection or immunity against COVID-19 due to vaccination, previous infection, or both. This immunity, combined with the availability of tests and treatments, has greatly reduced the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. We no longer have to shut our doors to protect the elders and our team members. And what a relief that is! Unfortunately, COVID-19 can still cause serious illness and we are beginning to see a rise in cases across Mississippi. Now is the time to remember the simple protocols we learned early on that will help protect yourself and others from catching most viruses.

Here are a few recommendations to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 in our community:

- Always remember to wash your hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer
- Wear a mask indoors when among large groups
- Socialize outdoors or in properly ventilated indoor settings
- Test for COVID-19 before attending family or public events
- Stay up to date with all COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters
- Seek medical advice quickly if you develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or the flu
- Stay away from others if you are exhibiting symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19

Dugan will remain open for visiting and we look forward to visits from family members and friends. Please remember however, if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing signs and symptoms of the virus please refrain from visiting. In accordance with CMS guidance and due to the high transmission level in our county, Dugan asks that all employees and visitors wear a mask around the elders to help prevent the spread of the virus or its variants. We appreciate your adherence to these Federal regulations.

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

Bless you and be safe!