

November 11, 2020

Dear Elders, Families and Friends of MSS,

Our team has completed our weekly COVID-19 testing and we'd like to share those results with you.

We had four elders from a Green Houses/Cedars test positive for COVID-19. In addition, we had four employees test positive for the virus as well. All other elders and employees have tested negative for the virus. We so have approximately 20 test results that have not yet arrived. We will update the web portal and phone line should we have any further positive cases reported.

The elders are currently quarantined and are receiving appropriate care. The employees have been asked to quarantine at home and are also receiving appropriate care. We continue to follow the CDC's criteria for return to work with all employees.

In addition, we were notified that an elder from the Traceway Cottages has also tested positive for COVID-19. They too are quarantined and are receiving appropriate care. We are currently notifying anyone who many have had contact with this elder to make them aware of the situation.

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 more than one case among employees over a 14-day period. We closely adhere to the routine testing policy for elders and employees as laid out by CMS and the MSDH. Currently, Traceway is testing all elders and employees twice a week. Updates will be posted to the web portal and phone line later this week.

We will continue to offer outdoor visits at the Green Houses unless your house has been placed on quarantine. Visits will need to be scheduled and all protocols for safety as previously outlined must be followed. **Our ability to continue offering visits of any sort at any level of care depends on everyone staying virus free.**

Mississippi's numbers are currently very high, so we want to remind everyone to take every measure possible to slow the spread of this virus. Please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask, perform good hand sanitation, keep the size of your group gatherings small and whenever possible, avoid being out in the general public. So long as the positivity rate is high in our county and state, it is very difficult to keep the virus away from the elders and our employees. We need everyone to do their part to ensure everyone stays virus-free. As we head into the holiday season, please remember that the greatest gift you can offer the elders is time with their families and that can only happen if the positivity rate decreases.

As a reminder, we are posting regular updates online and our dedicated message line. You can call 662-844-8977 Ext. 224 for a pre-recorded message or go to mss.org/Traceway and click on the COVID-19 Update Button. As always, you can reach out to our administrative office at Traceway for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Steve McAlilly, President/CEO of MSS



Kasie Wood, Traceway Executive Director