

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sagepoint leadership and staff have recognized the need to have full, frequent, and transparent communication -- in full accordance with HIPAA guidelines -- with residents, family members, and community partners about our response. We aggressively and successfully sought the ability to test all of our residents early, as we believe this is the correct action to take to manage this predatory virus in a nursing home environment.

For example, we took the following actions beginning in early March:

March 6--Issued a family communication after the first cases were confirmed in Maryland, requiring all visitors to take a federally-mandated three-question examination before entering facility.

March 10--Implemented visitor restrictions that were mandated later that day by Gov. Hogan, including

- Restricted access to essential visits only.
- Restricted activities and visitors with potential for exposure.
- Required individuals entering the building to wash their hands at entry.
- Established processes to allow remote communication for residents and others.

March 16--Sagepoint immediately implemented the executive order by Governor Hogan and closed Sagepoint Adult Day services. Sagepoint had no confirmed diagnosed cases.

March 18--Continuing to communicate with our families, we issued a Sagepoint update that discussed the closure of adult day services, why deliveries of homemade baked goods and clothing were restricted, and the risk of exposure even from family members being on campus. We implemented a video chat program to allow families to virtually visit their loved ones. Sagepoint still had no confirmed diagnosed cases.

March 30--Informed families immediately that a resident who was originally transferred to the hospital for non-COVID related symptoms tested positive for COVID-19. Began planning to test ALL Sagepoint residents.

April 6--Implemented testing of every resident at Sagepoint for COVID-19.

April 7—Apex COVID positive patient returns from hospital

April 10--Received finalized results of universal testing completed for all residents..

In response to the test results, Sagepoint staff immediately

- began notifying every resident who tested positive, and/or their designated contact.
- implemented emergency plans to cohort positive patients in designated areas of the Sagepoint facility.

- notifying non-affected patients and/or their designated contact about their potential exposure to the virus.

At every point in this emerging pandemic, Sagepoint leadership and staff has documented and followed ALL policy guidance issued by the CDC, Gov. Hogan, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Charles County Department of Health, and is the first skilled nursing facility in Charles County to complete testing of ALL residents at our facility.

On March 30, Charles County Health Officer Dr. Suzan Lowry noted that “Sagepoint implemented prevention protocols proactively well before they were mandated. They have consistently engaged the health department and state entities to prevent infection and transmission in their facility.”

We were directed by the Maryland Department of Health not to release individual facility information publicly due to privacy standards.

All updates will continue to be posted on www.sagepointcare.org.