



ThompsonHouse

Skilled Nursing ■ Residential Care

April 21, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, Staff and Friends,

Thompson House remains vigilant in caring for our community, and in this day that means protecting our residents. We are at the forefront of affecting policy at the state and regional levels, and consistently challenge the status quo in an effort to better safeguard our community against the Corona virus.

In our continued monitoring of staff and their families, we identified a staff member who had someone in their household with an elevated temperature. We sent the employee and their family member to our Worker's Compensation Provider for testing. The family member tested positive, the employee did not have symptoms and so was not tested. We requested, and the employee agreed, to self-quarantine for two weeks. By current guidelines the employee was slated to return to work on Monday with mask and gloves. When we asked for a test to confirm the employee was COVID negative, we were unable to obtain one from any of the official channels. We again turned to Clear Choice, MD to perform this confirmation test, and the employee tested positive. The employee is continuing to quarantine for two weeks after which we will require two negative tests before they return to work.

Following our identification of a COVID positive employee, we were offered the option, and I have requested, that the Vermont Department of Health go forward with facility-wide testing. Dr. Sheehan, our Medical Director has agreed to be the prescribing physician in this process. Testing will take place on April 22nd from 8 am to 4 pm in front of Thompson House. All employees on and off shift will be required to report for testing.

This is just a precaution, and it may seem extreme, but one thing we are all learning is what is extreme one day is policy the next. I thought it prudent to get a handle on anyone at this point who might be infected and get them isolated ASAP, as long as the opportunity is open for us.

Thompson House has always been at the forefront of caring for Brattleboro in times of need. We will continue in this tradition by demonstrating diligence and best practice in defense of our residents.

Sincerely,

Dane A. Rank, Administrator