



## COVID-19 Update

May 15, 2020

May is Older Americans Month. On Tuesday of this week, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring May 2020, as “Older Californians Month” in the State of California. This is not how we intended to celebrate!

As we approach two months under the statewide stay-at-home order, McKnight’s Senior Living media may have explained the current mood best in its Thursday Coronavirus Briefing: “Our black-hole ennui is no doubt a by-product of the conflicting chaotic directives coming at us daily: reopen/do not reopen, lift lockdowns/extend lockdowns, go back to work/stay home. Even the most independent among us, the type A personalities who demand control at all times, are seeking guidance.” Thank you to all of our communities’ leaders, providing guidance on a daily basis even when so many things are unclear.

There are currently 3 active cases of COVID-19 associated with the San Francisco Towers community. The Independent Living resident who tested COVID-positive has returned to SFT from the hospital and is now in isolation and doing well. Two staff members tested positive and are isolating at home. The other staff members who tested positive have recovered and returned to work, and two SFT residents “graduated” from the isolation area and returned to their Resident Health Center after being cleared of COVID-19. No other positive cases have been reported at our other communities.

On Monday, the California Department of Public Health issued an All-Facilities Letter requiring all Skilled Nursing Facilities to submit a COVID-19 Mitigation Plan by June 1. These will include plans for testing, infection prevention and control, personal protective equipment (PPE), staffing shortages, designated spaces for COVID-19 positive residents to minimize transmission risk, and designated staff members for communication. We are working on a template that each skilled nursing area can adapt for local use.

On Wednesday, Grant Edelstone, Senior Director of Risk Management, and Cynthia Shelby, Regional Quality and Care Nurse, presented at a virtual town hall offered by ECRI and Caring Communities. (ECRI is an independent nonprofit organization authority on medical practices and products that provide the safest, most cost-effective care.) Celena Romero, ECRI’s Senior Risk Management Consultant, noted that “The proactive work that Covia is doing is exceptional.”

As National Skilled Nursing Care Week comes to an end, we also want to recognize the exceptional work done by our clinical teams, health care staff, and skilled nursing. Here is our latest blog post on providing care during uncertainty – irrespective of COVID-19: <https://covia.org/blog/providing-care-during-uncertainty-covia-and-skilled-nursing/>