



COVID-19 Update

July 10, 2020

With record high numbers of new cases nationwide and increases in new cases and hospitalizations throughout the state of California, it's been another week of disappointing news about COVID-19. In our communities, too, we have had a couple of new cases reported among employees in our life plan communities. (There are no known cases in our affordable communities.)

There is good news, however. As these cases emerged, our life plan communities, supported by their county health departments, have been doing significant numbers of tests that so far have been coming back negative – a trend we hope continues. We believe this underscores how important it is to wash hands regularly and to practice physical distancing and wearing masks when at work and when outside the home.

This week, the COVID-19 Task Force has been discussing who we should test and how often, as well as how to provide the most effective screening tools for our workforce. Our IT department is exploring a couple of apps that might supplement the current screening protocols we currently have in place. We expect to decide on an application and begin implementation before the end of the month.

Today, Grant Edelstone, our Senior Director of Risk Management, was the guest speaker at Covia's Brown Bag Lunch program – a monthly Zoom presentation for all employees. He shared about building a culture of safety that seeks to learn from mistakes and near misses in order to continuously improve. "We can't do anything better if we don't learn about it," Grant noted. All of us on the Task Force take this seriously as we work to mitigate risk and build safe and healthy communities and programs.

This month, as part of our Spiritual Care program, residents and interested team members are invited to read a book by local storyteller Joel ben Izzy who will present a Zoom discussion and Q & A on Monday, August 3. He describes the book, *The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness*, as "a book about stories and story telling and how they can get us through difficult times." You can learn more about it (and hear a story) at <https://gather.video/fKQK>.

As always, please reach out to us at C19info@covia.org if you have questions, comments, or concerns.