



COVID-19 Update

July 24, 2020

Last Friday, we had 10 positive cases of COVID-19 across 6 Covia communities, including life plan and affordable communities, plus those communities we manage but do not own. As of this writing, there are 15 cases across 7 communities. The bad news, of course, is that the numbers have increased. The good news is the increase is not an exponential spread that would suggest uncontrolled outbreaks in any location.

One indicator that we are not facing large outbreaks in our communities is that we are testing significant numbers of residents and staff members, and almost all tests are coming back negative. Because people can have COVID-19 while they are asymptomatic, testing helps us identify positive cases before there is an outbreak. A low positivity rate when nearly everyone has been tested indicates we have an accurate picture of what's going on in our communities.

Again, we want to commend everyone for maintaining the strong controls that we hope will contain this virus and prevent the spread of this disease. As a whole, the state of California still has significant work to do to get COVID-19 under control. Please remain vigilant. Stay safer at home unless you are going out on essential business. Wear your mask or face covering and maintain at least six feet of distance from others any time you are out and about in your community or the wider world. Wash your hands whenever you arrive at work or home. Playing your part will help bring the infection numbers down in our communities and beyond.

This week, our clinical team is reviewing the implications of the new requirements from the CDC for universal use of eye protection (goggles or face shields) for Health Care Providers during direct close care encounters. We have a ready supply of face shields available for our communities to use, along with other personal protective equipment (PPE) such as surgical masks and gowns.

In your mailboxes, be looking for the summer edition of Community Matters from the Covia Foundation, which highlights many of the ways all of Covia continues to live out its values in the midst of this pandemic. The article *Sheltering in Place – Adapting to a New Way of Life* notes, “Community life at Covia shifted with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of the shelter-in-place orders – residents, staff, and program participants found new ways to stay connected.” Your adaptability and creativity in the face of incredible challenges is on full display in this newsletter and in our communities and programs every day. As always, thank you for your resilience and fortitude.