



COVID-19 Update

December 4, 2020

With the surge in cases still building after Thanksgiving, we urge you to take extra precautions over the next couple of weeks. It's a good idea to assume that everyone – including yourself – is positive for COVID-19 and to act accordingly in order to prevent any possible spread of infection.

Stay home as much as possible. When you are out, wear your mask, even if you are physically distant from others. Remember to wash your hands for a full 20 seconds as we all learned to do way back when the pandemic first started. Screen yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 – and don't write them off as allergies or "just a cough."

If you traveled or gathered with others for the holidays, get tested, even if you do not have symptoms. Since many people are asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19, we strongly advise you to get tested for COVID-19 in 4-7 days after your return, even without any symptoms.

We've seen an increase in cases across Covia since our last update. Two residents and one staff member at Webster House, two staff members at San Francisco Towers, and one staff member each at Canterbury Woods and St. Paul's Towers have tested positive. Because Monterey County has a positivity rate over 10%, staff at Canterbury Woods are now being tested twice a week. Thank you to all those who are working hard to keep people safe, but we need everyone to contribute. Something as simple as wearing a cloth face covering any time you leave your household can make a difference.

Last week, we placed a major order for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies started arriving this week. The gloves, face masks, and face shields that we ordered should be enough to supply our communities for the next six months.

We have started to get some questions about how the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered at our communities, once a vaccine is approved by the FDA. That largely depends upon what the state decides. We will share information once we have more news. In the meantime, LeadingAge has an FAQ about the COVID-19 vaccine here: <https://www.leadingage.org/sites/default/files/FAQs%20and%20Resources%20on%20COVID-19%20Vaccines%20.pdf>.

Although you can't get a COVID-19 vaccine yet, you can still get your flu shot. And what better time than National Influenza Vaccine Week, December 6-12! It's a December holiday we should all observe. Stay safe!