



November 17, 2020

To Our Residents, Family Members and Staff:

We want to keep you updated on the evolving situation at Walnut Acres. All of our residents are now out of quarantine and we have no current cases of COVID-19 in the facility!

We will continue to test the negative staff weekly, and have started to bring residents back into the facility who had been relocated to further limit the spread of COVID-19. We will be bringing residents home in phases to ensure that everyone gets settled and adjusted to being back.

The safety and wellbeing of our residents and staff is our top priority. We are instituting measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Stephenson Nursing Center/Walnut Acres, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps under current circumstances. We are working with the residents physicians to monitor any change in status.

We will be conducting another round of testing this week on all previously negative staff and residents. We will keep you updated when results become available.

We are continuing with the recommendations from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for expanded list of symptoms
- No visitors are allowed in the facility.
- All group activities are still cancelled
- Residents will continue to eat meals in their rooms, as determined appropriate
- Staff wear masks throughout the facility
- Continued assessments of resident's respiratory status and condition
- Infected resident will have increased frequency of respiratory assessments.
- All outdoor visits will be suspended at this time

As previously presented we want to make sure you continue check in to the [Walnut Acres Facebook Page](#) and [Walnut Acres website](#) for information on events and other updates.

We know you are concerned about your loved one, but it is crucial that we continue to restrict visitation to reduce the spread of this virus to others. We will contact you directly if your loved one is suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.

We also understand that connecting with family members is incredibly important to our residents. Family members are encouraged to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling, texting, or on social media. Please contact us at [\*\*walnutacres@co.stephenson.il.us\*\*](mailto:walnutacres@co.stephenson.il.us) if you need assistance in scheduling these alternative communication methods or have other questions.

We are also available to conduct window visits Monday through Friday. Please contact us through the email above to set up a time.

We need your help in battling COVID-19. Please visit the CDC website ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)) to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community, since continued spread in the larger community increases the chance the virus will work its way into our building.

This is a difficult time for everyone. We will continue to provide you with updates. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.

Sincerely,

Stephenson Nursing Center/Walnut Acres

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