

“You’re in pretty good shape, for the shape you’re in!”

- Dr. Suess, *You’re Only Old Once*, 1986

2022 has already been a whirlwind of COVID-related activity, but we still have much for which to be thankful. I wanted to offer a quick view of our current situation, although we will still publish an update mid-week complete with statistics.

Foremost, we continue to see an unprecedented level of virus activity amongst the staff. Prior to this wave, we had experienced 51 cases in 20 months (March ’20 – Nov ’21). In the past month alone, we have experienced 31 cases – in a population that is 100% vaccinated. All but a handful of those employees are still quarantined (roughly 15% of our overall workforce) which dramatically impacts our workflow. That’s the shape we are in.

So, how is it that I can speculate that we are still in “pretty good shape?”

Resident infection rates are comparatively very low. To date, only three residents have tested positive. One resident who, last week, initially tested positive on a rapid test later tested negative on a confirmatory PCR test, so the number of total infections amongst residents is still just two.

Everyone who has tested positive is doing well. No one is seriously ill – symptoms range from completely asymptomatic to, at worst, what we might consider “cold” symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, and headaches.

As a community, here are the things we can focus on this week:

It appears that the decision to cancel events, gatherings, and in-person dining was well-timed. I know this represents an ongoing hardship, and I appreciate the outpouring of support and cooperation. Please continue to act wisely when meeting with others.

I would greatly appreciate your continued patience as we work to keep all resident services as close to normal as possible. Our operational leaders are working hard and being very creative in the face of so many quarantined employees. We are actively studying the updated CDC guidance on returning fully asymptomatic employees to duty sooner than the old recommendation of 10 days. Nothing takes priority over the health and safety of our community, and we will proceed cautiously when implementing these new guidelines.

Lastly, I would ask that everyone continue to wear a properly fitted face mask always when interacting with others or in our campus common spaces. You will notice that employees will be wearing more tight-fitting KN-95 masks or, in some cases, using two masks to ensure a better fit.

Questions?

The weekly COVID Updates are produced by Saint John’s COVID Response Team. If you have a question for the team, please contact Matt Loyd, COO, at (414) 831 – 6953 or mloyd@saintjohnsmilw.org.