

Current COVID-Positive Cases

Since Monday's update (1/03), an additional four employees have tested positive. That does represent a significant decrease in the rate of positive test results. However, the total number of employees who have tested positive in this wave is now 35. None of those 35 ever became seriously ill, most reporting symptoms similar to a common cold. About half have already returned to work.

There has also been a total of three residents – all in the Towers – who have tested positive in this wave. Symptoms among this group have also been very mild.

Ongoing Testing

We continue to perform weekly 'surveillance' testing of fully asymptomatic employees whose job puts them in repeated close contact with residents. This level of testing is being completed as an extra precaution.

We offer testing to residents who are either experiencing symptoms or who have had close contact with someone known to be COVID positive. We have conducted a number of these tests in the past several days without a positive result, thankfully.

For both employees and residents, we are using PCR tests which are processed by an external lab. The turnaround time for results is approximately 48 hours. We do have a limited supply of 'rapid' tests on hand and are working to acquire more. Those rapid tests would be essential to guide our actions in case of a campus-based outbreak in the Care Neighborhoods, so we have carefully rationed their use. We understand the inconvenience, and the anxiety, of needing to quarantine while awaiting PCR test results and appreciate the entire community's cooperation.

Face Mask Use

We continue to expect every person on campus to always wear a properly-fitted face mask, that covers both the mouth and nose, while in all our common areas. Employees will be wearing more tight-fitting KN-95 masks or, in some cases, using two masks to ensure a better fit.

Resident Gatherings & Dining

Our initial cessation of Saint John's events and in-person dining, announced December 29, was scheduled for two weeks. Early next week, we will determine the need to extend the measure and communicate with the entire campus. In the meantime, we continue to appreciate your graciousness as we transition as many things as possible to Zoom or Channel 955. For some Zoom-based events, a very limited amount number of spaces are available in the NCAC for those who cannot individually access Zoom.

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.