

Current COVID-Positive Cases

Since last week's update (1/12), one Towers resident and four employees have tested positive for COVID. As with all others affected by this wave, their symptoms have been mild and their recovery has been swift.

We take all cases very seriously, but it is encouraging that cases among residents and employees have greatly tapered during the past three weeks. Even Milwaukee County seems to be nearing a peak of cases, while deaths and hospitalizations are already trending down.

Resident Gatherings Resumed

We continue to support last week's decision to reinstate many in-person events and gatherings. For the time being, we continue to ask for adequate social distancing and face mask use. You may have likely heard that Milwaukee enacted an indoor face mask requirement; this is the same expectation we have had in place for weeks.

While we believe it is prudent to continue surveillance testing for at least another week before making a final determination, we anticipate taking another step toward normalcy on February 1. This likely will include a return of in-person dining and a relaxation of room capacity limits for events. Face masks would continue to be required in public areas and recommended during events.

Face Masks

Last week, Saint John's distributed a KN-95 mask to every resident. Despite being in high demand, we felt this one-time distribution would be a helpful resource for our community's continued good health. If more masks become available soon, a second distribution may be possible. In the meantime, it is best to clean the mask by simply putting it in a plain paper bag and letting it air out for three days. This resting period breaks any virus particles that may be present. Any other method of cleaning may damage the mask and limit its effectiveness.

While the KN-95 is a great mask, they are not required. Feel free to wear any face mask that is comfortable and properly covers your mouth and nose. The best mask is the one you use.

COVID Tests Available from the Federal Government

It was recently announced that home tests for COVID are available over the internet, directly from the federal government. If you are interested, visit <https://www.covidtests.gov/> to order four tests per household. Please be cautious navigating the internet; you are likely to be tempted by counterfeit sites so ensure you are visiting the authentic government (.gov) location.

Please remember we continue to offer testing to any resident who is experiencing symptoms or has had contact with a person known to be COVID-positive. Testing is available in the Wellness Center, call 414-831-6876 for an appointment.

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.