



We are reaching out to update you on the new guidelines given to Nursing Homes to protect the residents and help prevent an outbreak of COVID-19. Our residents are the most vulnerable population for this virus.

On August 25, 2020, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published an interim final rule aimed at preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes, detecting cases quickly, and stopping transmission. There are three key areas associated with testing:

- Symptomatic individual identified. Staff with signs of COVID-19 must be tested. Residents with signs of COVID-19 must be tested. All precautions must be taken to limit further potential exposures with isolation until test results are known.
- Outbreak (any new case arises in the facility). This is defined as any new COVID-19 infection in any healthcare personnel or any new COVID-19 infection in a resident. If this occurs, all residents and employees will be tested. Any positive will be isolated. Testing will continue on all employees and residents every 3 days to 7 days until testing identifies no new cases for a period of at least 14 days from the most recent positive results.
- Routine Testing of Staff. This is based on the extent of the virus in the county. We will watch the positivity rate within the county reported to us by the local health district every week. If we have a low positivity rate (less than 5%) we will test ALL employees monthly. If the rate is 5-10%, we will test ALL employees once a week. If the rate climbs to over 10%, we will test ALL employees twice weekly. We will also monitor surrounding counties and may increase our testing frequency depending on risk associated with staff from those areas.

Garfield County positivity rate is currently \_0% so we will be testing employees monthly. **Resident testing would only take effect for Symptomatic or Outbreak testing.** Resident families will be notified of what type of testing may have to be done for their loved ones. You will receive additional information on testing.

You can find weekly updates on our website, [www.cmhcburwell.com](http://www.cmhcburwell.com). Our goal is to keep your loved one safe. If you have any questions please give us a call.

**The attached page is a signature consent form for you loved one in the event of needing to be tested. Please sign and return by September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you,

Kally Cloeter

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As part of Community Memorial Health Center's mission to provide our residents with the best quality of care, we are under new guidelines by the CDC to test resident's for COVID-19 to help prevent an outbreak in specific situations.

You will be notified if your loved one is symptomatic and needs to be tested or there is an outbreak but this form will allow CMHC to test your loved one timely.

Resident's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand and consent that \_\_\_\_\_ will be tested for COVID19 per the current CDC guidelines.

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Resident/Representative's Signature

Date

Current Guidelines for COVID-19 Testing:

- Outbreak (any new case arises in the facility). This is defined as any new COVID-19 infection in any healthcare personnel or any new COVID-19 infection in a resident. If this occurs, all residents and employees will be tested. Any positive will be isolated. Testing will continue on all employees and residents every 3 days to 7 days until testing identifies no new cases for a period of at least 14 days from the most recent positive results.
- Symptomatic individual identified. Staff with signs of COVID-19 must be tested. Residents with signs of COVID-19 must be tested. All precautions must be taken to limit further potential exposures with isolation until test results are known.