

March 15, 2024

Martha & Mary Health Services

Martha & Mary Health Services began COVID Outbreak status beginning Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

We were able to keep the transmission of the virus to a minimum and under the direction of our local health jurisdiction, we were able to terminate the outbreak status March 14th.

We continue to monitor residents/clients in our building for any signs or symptoms and test for COVID when and where appropriate as directed by the Department of Health.

Despite the end of the outbreak, we continue to require medical grade face masks to be worn while in our Health Services building. The Washington State Department of Health has not released long term care facilities from the mask requirement due to increased levels of respiratory illness in the community.

We continue to ask guests to postpone visiting if you are experiencing any type of cold or allergy symptoms when you are able. Practicing social distancing, 6' feet of separation, is always encouraged.

Guests are also encouraged to postpone non-urgent in-person visits in the following circumstances:

- If they experienced recent exposure to a COVID positive person(s) in the past 10 days.
- If they have tested positive for COVID within the past 10 days.
- If they are experiencing any COVID symptoms and have not ruled out or tested for COVID-19.

Recommended COVID testing includes 2 rapid tests (i.e. home tests) 48 hours apart or one PCR/lab test.

Martha & Mary does continue to encourage use of the COVID vaccines where appropriate.

The 2023-2024 COVID vaccine was introduced late in 2023 and a booster will be available April 1, 2024. A 2023-2024 COVID vaccine *booster* is recommended to be administered no sooner than 4 months from the last COVID vaccine received. The new recommendations to be considered "up-to-date" with the 2023-2024 COVID vaccinations will take effect April 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Infection Preventionist or the Director of Nursing through our main number 360.779.7500 or via email at: info@mmhc.org.

Thank you!