

June 8, 2020

Dear Family Members,

Last week, we hosted a virtual meeting with more than 20 family members and guardians to gauge their concerns about how to safely begin family visits. Overwhelmingly the feedback we received was to cautiously move forward with our phased approach. That feedback, coupled with input from our home staff, only served to reinforce the decision to shelter in place through at least June 15th. The COVID-19 response team continues to identify ways for family members to begin visiting their loved ones.

While positive cases of COVID-19 in our area continue to decline, we are certainly not out of the woods yet. Just last week an Emmaus team member tested positive for the disease, potentially exposing 3 client homes.

Fortunately, testing is much more available to us than it was just a few months ago. Governor Parson recently announced that widespread testing is available and being provided by the State of Missouri. Following the direction of the Department of Mental Health, who has committed to testing all employees and clients that they serve, and the CDC recommendations for testing health care workers, our response team has mandated that **all Emmaus staff and clients will be tested this week for COVID-19. We are choosing to restrict visitors to the home until after the test results are received, in 4 to 7 days.** Once the results for the entire team have been received, if the team is COVID free, we will begin to allow outdoor visits at the home. This means that some homes may be able to have visits next week, and others may be delayed until the risk of the virus has diminished. You should anticipate a call from a member of your client services team when it is safe to visit, along with the instructions regarding precautions.

To learn how quick and painless the testing process is, click [here](#) to watch a video of Emmaus team members, Michelle Peters and Erika Rodriguez, take the test.

As a reminder, our commitment is to share the most recent information and decisions with you via email. Some families have indicated that they are not receiving this information. If you haven't received our updates, please check your junk or spam folder. Right-click the email that you want to move and select move to inbox. That will move the email to your inbox, and it will tell Windows Mail that you want emails from Emmaus to go to your inbox in the future, instead of to the spam or junk folder. For families who don't have an email account, the communication is sent in a letter to their home.

In closing, I would ask that you continue to pray for Emmaus as we navigate these wildly uncertain times. Our greatest concern remains the health and safety of our clients, and the staff members who care for them. There are many ways that you can help us, click [here](#) to learn more about our most pressing needs.

Thank you and God bless,

Sincerely,

Cindy Clark