

COVID-19 Testing Northfield Retirement Community

Beginning Monday, June 15, Northfield Retirement Community will launch the next phase of our efforts to keep our community as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Testing for the virus will begin for all residents in the Care Center and Cannon Valley Suites.

As of June 10, 2020, we have no positive cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff. Although we have no known cases of the virus on our campus, we are beginning testing due to the high risk of adverse outcomes associated with COVID-19 in communal environments.

We are committed to keeping you informed and appreciate your support of our community residents and staff. Attached is a list of frequently asked questions to help provide additional details about our testing strategy.

I am grateful to all of our residents and staff who have worked so hard under difficult circumstances during the past month. Thank you for continuing to abide by our limited visitation policies and physical limitation recommendations. As difficult as these actions have been, it is clear they are helping us to keep Northfield Retirement Community as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Nordine', written in a cursive style.

Kyle Nordine, LNHA, HSE, CSA
President and CEO

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Which facilities will perform testing?**

Testing will begin with residents living in the Care Center and Cannon Valley Suites as well as staff working in these areas. Over the next few weeks, we will expand testing to other residents on our campus.

- **Who will be tested?**

Staff and residents that consent will be tested.

- **Why are we being tested?**

Out of an abundance of caution, we continue to follow the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health which recommends the systematic testing of all nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

- **Who is performing the testing?**

Northfield Retirement staff will be conducting the testing using nasal swabs. The collection of a sample is relatively simple and takes just a minute. The tests will be collected in resident's room or apartments. To assure no cross contamination and the safety of all residents, the staff collecting samples will wear full personal protective equipment while gathering individual samples.

- **Do you have a choice in getting tested?**

We encourage all staff and residents to undergo testing. Prior to any sample collected, the staff, resident, or resident family member will sign a consent form. Anyone may refuse to participate if they wish but still has to sign a consent form.

- **Are people who are not presenting symptoms going to get tested?**

Yes. All staff and residents that provide consent will be tested.

- **How often will testing occur?**

Further testing will be determined by MDH after the first round of testing is complete. Guidelines state that additional tests will be completed until there is no positives test over a 14 day period.

- **What style of test will be administered?**

Nasal swabs will be used to collect samples.

- **How will testing results be communicated? Who will receive test results?**

All results will be sent to the infection control nurse at Northfield Retirement Community and then shared with each tested individual and/or their representative.

- **How soon will results be available?**

Depending on the laboratory, it should be within 1-3 working days.

- **How will testing prevent the spread at NRC?**

Testing will simply provide a look at a moment in time as well as how many residents and staff may be testing positive for COVID-19. This will allow the organization to isolate those who test positive.

- **Where will the testing occur?**

All tests will be completed at NRC and will be in resident rooms and other staff directed areas.

- **Is there a cost or insurance billing associated with the test.**

We do not believe that there is a cost. Your insurance information will be collected on the consent form, but your health insurance will not be billed.

- **What day(s) of the week will NRC test?**

Monday–Tuesday.

- **What happens if I test positive?**

Positive tests results will be shared by the medical staff with residents and an appropriate plan developed. Generally, residents who are asymptomatic (show no signs of illness) or symptomatic will be isolated for a period of 14 days in their room or apartment.