

May 29, 2020

Dear Beaumont Families,

The Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* published an article today regarding nursing home deaths from COVID-19, noting that Beaumont at Westborough has suffered some of the greatest such losses. In it, I was quoted:

*The losses our nursing homes and others in the Worcester area have experienced are devastating for the families and our staff," said Matt Salmon, CEO of Salmon Health and Retirement, which owns and operates the Beaumont facilities. "Scientists are now starting to see that the size of the nursing home and the amount of spread in the surrounding community correlates to the spread of COVID-19 within facilities. The death rates we and others have experienced show just how devastating this disease really is.*

The statewide data detailing the number of Residents testing positive for COVID-19, along with Resident deaths and staff testing, reflects the widespread and challenging nature of addressing COVID-19. In 12 short weeks, the Commonwealth and its nursing home providers have learned a great deal about COVID-19, including the risk of community spread from asymptomatic individuals and the need to test a broader spectrum of Residents (not just those who are symptomatic).

Consistent with the April surge of the virus in Massachusetts, most of the COVID-19 infections and deaths at our Beaumonts occurred in April. Although this data is a "look back," it does not reflect the changing picture in our nursing homes today. We are pleased to report some Residents who initially tested positive are now stable and recovering (Northbridge had 53 Residents recover, Westborough had 47, and Northborough had 23); the number of new positive test results has flattened; and we have strong, effective protocols in place for limiting risk of infection, which has decreased our infection rate by 48% in May.

We must continue to be vigilant—the risk to vulnerable seniors remains high. But we now have better tools and knowledge than we had at the outset of this pandemic and we continue to build on that information moving forward.

The death of anyone in our care brings sorrow and regret to our entire organization; we were established to enhance the lives of our Residents, not lose them. The fight to keep them all safe and well continues.

Sincerely,



Matt Salmon, CEO

SALMON Health and Retirement