SALMON
HEALTH and RETIREMENT

The Willows
Retirement Communities
Westborough
Worcester

Whitney Place
Assisted Living Residences
Natick
Northborough
Northbridge
Sharon
Westborough

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& Skilled Nursing Centers
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Northborough
Northbridge
Westborough
Worcester

The Health Center
at The Willows
Worcester

SALMON Adult
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VNA & Hospice
Central Massachusetts

SALMON
Private Care Options
Central Massachusetts

SALMON Centers
for Early Education
Natick
Northbridge

July 8, 2020

Dear Beaumont, Whitney Place and Health Center Staff,

I am writing to provide the new guidance just received around baseline testing in addition to surveillance testing of staff and, potentially, Residents. The notification from the Department of Health and Human Services is requiring the following:

1) All our staff must participate in baseline and surveillance COVID-19 testing, as required under the bulletin HHS sent out, to be completed by Sunday, July 19th.

2) Staff must be tested for COVID-19 if they were in close contact, as such term is described in the DPH LTC Testing Guidance, with any staff member or Resident who tests positive at any point for the duration of the testing policy established by their bulletin.

3) SALMON Health and Retirement is prohibited from encouraging, requesting, requiring, or pressuring the staff to obtain such testing on their own time or at their own cost.

I am sharing the language as written in the HHS bulletin we received to ensure we are compliant in our notification to you.

What all this means is that we will be testing again as we had done when we first did baseline testing of all our staff. The dates and times will differ by campus; we will send you the specifics. If positive results are received from the surveillance testing, additional tests may be needed. The surveillance testing can include 30 percent of our staff to be tested weekly or bi-weekly, depending on test results.

I realize this is a lot of information. We will communicate with you along the way, after initial baseline testing has been completed. Please continue to use PPE as appropriate, wash your hands frequently and stay socially distanced both in and out of work.

Thank you for all you do and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

Deb J Freedman

Deborah J. Freedman
Director of Clinical Services

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