

## News Release

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### **Salina Presbyterian Manor reports resident, employee test positive for COVID-19**

SALINA, Kan. – One essential health care worker and one independent living resident have tested positive for COVID-19 at Salina Presbyterian Manor this week.

The resident has been self-isolating since learning a close contact had tested positive for the virus. After experiencing symptoms, the resident sought testing and was positive for COVID-19. The resident will continue to self-isolate until he or she meets requirements for ending COVID-19 isolation.

The employee last worked on July 29, when the employee passed pre-shift screening and wore personal protective equipment (PPE) as required.

“The health and wellbeing of our residents is our top priority,” said Jeanne Gerstenkorn, PMMA’s vice president for health and wellness and infection preventionist. “With the Delta variant of COVID-19 causing a rapid increase in cases throughout the state, and particularly in Saline County, I strongly encourage you to continue to be vigilant in protecting yourself and others from the virus.”

As a precaution, all visitation in memory care, assisted living and health care remain suspended, and indoor visitation in independent living has also been suspended pending 14 days of testing with no new cases identified. These cases bring our total for the past 7 days to 6 with four employees and two residents.

We have notified the Saline County Health Department and will follow their guidance for testing and quarantine. We will test residents and staff in health care, memory care and assisted living every 3 to 7 days until we have 14 days without any new positive cases. We will continue with twice a week surveillance testing for the rest of our employees in compliance with the CMS requirements due to the county positivity rate for COVID-19 tests.

We will follow CDC and KDHE guidelines for when the resident may come out of isolation. Under the current guidelines, symptomatic residents may leave isolation when at least 72 hours have passed since resolution of the resident’s fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and the resident’s symptoms have improved and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Asymptomatic positive residents will quarantine for at least 10 days. Designated staff members are following doctor’s orders for treatment protocols and following CDC infection prevention protocols.

We will follow CDC and KDHE guidelines for when the employee may return to work. Under the current guidelines, symptomatic individuals may return to work when at least 72 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and their symptoms have improved and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Asymptomatic positive

employees or contractors will quarantine for at least 10 days. Upon their return to work, we will follow CDC recommendations related to work practices and restrictions.

We encourage all staff members and residents to follow CDC guidelines and best practices as these are continually updated. We have been screening employees as they enter the community building for a shift and before employees have any direct contact with residents. We educate all staff to stay at home if they are experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness or not feeling well.

Every person who receives the vaccine will strengthen the protection for all residents, staff and the community at-large. PMMA continues to strongly encourage our families, employees and residents to carefully consider obtaining a vaccine for themselves as well as their loved ones.

For more information about Salina Presbyterian Manor's response, go to PMMA's (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America's) website, [Presbyterianmanors.org/Media-room](https://www.presbyterianmanors.org/Media-room).