



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

January 9, 2022

TO: Brownstone Work/Training Release Staff and Residents

FROM: Colleen Pettit, Incident Commander *Colleen Pettit*

SUBJECT: Brownstone COVID-19 Weekly Update

On December 18, 2021, via regular Serial testing of the resident population, one resident out of the 53 had tested positive for COVID-19 within the 14 days of identifying the first positive case (identified on December 8, 2021). Notifications were made on December 18, 2021 to clinical and Headquarters Emergency Operations Center and this positive resident was transported to an off-site Medical Isolation Facility on December 20, 2021. The close contacts of the second positive resident were placed into medical quarantine and the entire resident and staff population were rapid tested on December 19, 2021. All rapid tests confirmed negative results. As a secondary precaution, we again tested all residents and staff via PCR and from those tests, an additional resident tested positive for COVID-19 This resident was transported to the Medical Isolation and Quarantine Facility within an hour of notification on December 23, 2021.

Per protocol, any close contacts identified with the third positive were placed into Medical Quarantine. Another round of rapid and PCR testing occurred on December 24 and 25, 2021. The results have been received with no additional positives.

PCR tests were collected for all residents and staff on December 27, 2021, and those results are all reported as negative as of January 4, 2022.

A PCR test for every resident and staff on site was conducted on January 3, 2022, with results reporting negative.

On January 6, 2022, a resident developed symptoms and was placed into Medical Isolation. Rapid Antigen testing was conducted and confirmed their symptoms to be COVID-19 positive. The entire facility was tested upon this discovery, and no additional positives were identified on that day.

On January 9, 2022, per medical guidelines all residents and staff were Rapid Antigen Tested. Three (3) new COVID-19 positive cases were discovered.

Due to the timeframes in discovering another four (4) positive cases, Brownstone's Quarantine has been extended. We will continue testing via Rapid Antigen during the week of January 10, 2022 due to the delays in processing with the PCR tests that require lab confirmation due to transportation, weather and other factors that delay our results.

More frequent testing is necessary due to the Omicron variant causing major outbreaks across the state and in our local communities.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"

Please continue with the quarantine protocols in place. Report any symptoms to staff immediately. Continue taking the most precaution in your living areas by following the guidelines with social distancing, masking, hand washing, sanitation. This variant is running rampant through the state at this time, we must use these basic safeguards, especially during the cold and flu season.

Our HQ Medical Team is working on the newest version of the Guidelines and Protocols for Screening, Testing and Infection Control. There may be significant changes coming soon, please know that as soon as anything changes, these communications will be shared immediately to both staff and residents. We are keeping apprised of the CDC guidelines for Congregate Living and the DOC HQ Version 29 Guidelines and Protocols for Screening, Testing and Infection Control will reflect similar guidance.

We understand that this is a very difficult time for residents and staff alike. We truly appreciate everyone's positive attitude and respectful interactions in managing this response. Staff psychologist, Dr. Small is available for staff. Please reach out to him if you are experiencing any stress and need guidance.

For residents experiencing anxiety, depression or situational stress, all staff at Brownstone are here to help guide you and we are always listening. Additionally, it's advised to contact 211, your Physician or Frontier Behavioral Health for additional Mental Health resources. Anyone needing more acute care, please reach out to a staff member you are comfortable talking to and we can help direct you to the care you need. If you are experiencing a crisis, please call the Regional Crisis Line at 1-877-266-1818.

I am always available to field your concerns. We must take care of each other, staff and residents alike. I ask that we continue working together. This event truly depends on every single employee and resident to follow the quarantine protocols, identify problems so we can solve them in a swift manner and ensure we report any symptoms as soon as they are noticed. Even if you are not sure if the symptoms are "Covid related" or not, let's let our medical team help you with this decision making. We must be working together. I need to ensure the continuation of a safe operations at Brownstone for everyone.

It is imperative to make sure you continue to wear your appropriate [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#), as well as social distancing at all times.

Similarly, it is vital that we continue to follow the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#), ensuring to follow the six (6) foot social distancing rule, washing your hands, and keeping areas of the institution sanitized. Staff must remain diligent in wearing your masks at all times, as your safety, as well as your family's, are a priority. Corrections is committed to everyone's safety. We will continue to communicate with you as we progress through this pandemic.