



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

January 21, 2022

TO: Brownstone Work/Training Release Staff and Residents

FROM: Colleen Pettit, Incident Commander *Colleen Pettit*

SUBJECT: Brownstone COVID-19 Weekly Update

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).

Since this initial outbreak, Brownstone was on track to be removed from outbreak status on January 6, 2022, with many days without any symptomatic residents or any positive tests, however, a resident developed symptoms on January 6, 2022, which were confirmed to be COVID-19. We placed the resident into medical isolation and there were several identified close contacts that were placed in quarantine.

January 10, rapid antigen testing was conducted on all staff and residents, and there were six more positive cases identified. Four of these residents were transported to an off-site medical-isolation facility. Two of these cases were placed into medical isolation due to the time frames of their upcoming releases.

January 14, 2022, all residents were rapid antigen tested and there were eight more positive cases identified. These residents were transported to an off-site medical-isolation facility. All close contacts were placed into medical quarantine.

January 17, 2022, all residents were rapid antigen tested, and another seven positive cases were identified. These residents have been placed into medical isolation and all close contacts were placed into quarantine.

January 20, 2022, all residents were rapid antigen tested, and three more positive cases were identified. Currently there are 10 residents in medical isolation at Brownstone.

Due to the surge of cases across the state, there are no beds available at any of our off-site medical isolation facilities. All residents in medical isolation and quarantine have been given instructions for movement to a dedicated bathroom, with extra PPE, sanitation supplies and directives to stay in their room and to call staff for movement to ensure there is no-contact with others in the facility. Increased sanitation and cleaning is being implemented to ensure we are providing a safe environment for staff and residents alike.

To date, there have been 25 cases of COVID-19 reported since December 8, 2022. As we are seeing around the state and the nation the Omicron variant of the virus is proving to be highly contagious.

“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 and sanitation. We have sanitation carts on each floor with extra personal protective equipment (PPE) for your safety.

More frequent testing is necessary due to the Omicron variant causing major outbreaks across the state and in our local communities. We highly encouraged residents to schedule an appointment to obtain a vaccine and booster shots in the community.

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 incident 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. 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 foot social-distancing rule, washing your hands, and keeping areas of the institution sanitized. Corrections is committed to everyone's safety. We will continue to communicate with you as we progress through this pandemic.