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Universal COVID-19 Testing of Cedarbrook Staff and Residents
All residents and staff will be tested for further COVID-19 prevention efforts

Allentown, PA- The National Guard will administer COVID-19 tests to all Cedarbrook residents and staff without a prior diagnosis of COVID-19 starting on 6/16/2020. These measures are taken as a precaution in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus by staff and residents who may be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. Universal testing will be conducted at both County nursing homes, starting at the Cedarbrook Allentown nursing home.

The testing came at the request of Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong and Cedarbrook Administrator Jason Cumello. On 6/4/2020, the Cedarbrook Administration met with a Pennsylvania Department of Health team via conference call regarding the request for universal testing supplies and operational support at this scale. The request for support was subsequently accepted.

“We thank the professionals at the Department of Health for approving this request for assistance,” said Jason Cumello, Cedarbrook Administrator. “We have been asked by many why this was not done in nursing homes earlier in the pandemic, and unfortunately it was not possible until more recently. The national supply chain for testing supplies and PPE has been very challenged throughout the pandemic and is only showing some improvement recently.”

Logistics and zoning areas are currently being organized in preparation, which includes a massive effort to move residents off a unit that will potentially be used as a COVID zone pending test results. The Allentown campus will receive the first round of tests followed by Cedarbrook Fountain Hill in subsequent weeks.

The plan includes the potential to use the zone created at Allentown for Fountain Hill residents. Cedarbrook remains as one of the largest nursing home licenses in Pennsylvania, and a decreased current census provided this capability to create a COVID unit for Universal Testing.

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