
MEMORANDUM

TO: VALUED CLIENTS

FROM: THOMAS J. WEBER, ESQ., CEO

SUBJECT: FACILITY WIDE COVID-19 TESTING

DATE: APRIL 27, 2020

CC: TODD W. HASKINS, RN, BSN, CCHP, COO
BRENT W. BAVINGTON, PRESIDENT

As we continue to move through the often changing COVID-19 landscape, we wanted to provide you with some interesting data we collected related to testing and the likely presence of asymptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals in your facility. Last Thursday and Friday, in cooperation with facility administration and local government officials, PrimeCare performed a COVID-19 test on all inmates, correctional staff and PrimeCare staff in one facility. In total, 1365 swabs were collected and as of today, we have received 1327 results back.

Prior to conducting the facility wide testing, we had only identified six COVID-19 positive symptomatic patients and a slightly larger number under observation because of reported symptoms consistent with the disease. Of the 939 inmates tested (we did not re-test the six confirmed cases), 167 (17.8%) came back positive. The overwhelming majority of these individuals were asymptomatic. Of the 61 PrimeCare employees tested, five (8.2%) came back positive. Of the 327 county employees tested, 24 (7.3%) came back positive.

This sampling, which represents approximately 5% of PrimeCare's current company wide patient population, leads us to believe there may be a significant portion of your population that is likely asymptomatic COVID-19 positive. Although symptom-free, they may be capable of infecting other individuals. While quarantining, cohorting and isolating remain recommended effective tools to slow the spread, they do not address those who are asymptomatic positive. As a result, it remains extremely important to follow the other recommended steps. Quarantining of all new intakes for at least 14 days should still occur (longer if your facility is able). Continue to instruct all those in your facility to wash their hands frequently, disinfect high touch areas, refrain from touching their face, limit movement, and practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Masks should be worn (properly) by everyone inside the facility and additional PPE should be utilized when circumstances warrant.

Even though the above results indicate the prescreening steps do not eliminate the possibility of someone entering or moving inside the facility who is positive, they remain an effective way of reducing the risk of the disease spreading. All individuals entering the facility should have their temperature taken and be asked if they have any flu-like or upper respiratory symptoms or have

been in close contact with a positive or suspected positive individual. If anyone is not feeling well they should be told to stay at home.

As the national push for more testing continues, there are a couple of points we would like to raise in the event you or your local government officials are thinking of conducting facility wide testing. First, the tests only capture a point in time. Unless you have the ability to stop all intakes and lock your staff and PrimeCare staff in your facility for the duration (something we certainly are not recommending) the virus will continue to be able to enter your facility on a daily basis.

Second, although we were able to get the test results in roughly 48-72 hours this cannot be guaranteed. As more testing is conducted throughout the country, the labs' resources will be strained and become more bogged down.

Third, the endeavor is expensive. At the beginning of the pandemic, tests (swab and results) cost approximately \$30 each. After a few weeks, the cost increased to approximately \$55 each. Last week the federal government increased the reimbursable amount for the test to over \$100. Further, depending on the size of your facility, PrimeCare may have to pull additional people above your staff specific contracted amount to accomplish testing in a timely fashion.

Fourth, there is the question of what you do with the result? Since there is no treatment and we have implemented several precautions already, there may not be much you can change other than further addressing inmate work assignments.

Fifth, consideration must be given to what can occur once the results become public. This could lead to increased anxiety among your staff and inmates. It could also place a strain on your county court system with the ACLU or inmates' private attorneys seeking release due to an "outbreak" in your facility.

The foregoing is a brief summary of our results and what we have learned by going through the process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. Likewise, if there is a discussion about similar testing occurring at your site we would respectfully request to be included in the process as early as possible.

On a related note, we have gained greater access to anti-body testing and will be beta testing it in a couple of our locations. As we gather data from these efforts we will share it with you.

Stay safe.