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# COVID-19: Riverbend Post-Acute Rehabilitation Facility Updates

With Correction,  
9:30pm, 4/16/2020

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**Public Health**  
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# Riverbend: A Letter from Dr. Greiner

Dear Wyandotte County Organizations and Community Members,

As you may already know, there has been a large cluster of COVID-19 cases at the Riverbend Post-Acute Rehabilitation facility in Kansas City, KS. I am saddened to see so many people impacted by COVID-19, and to have lost more of our community members to this disease.

My colleagues and I with Unified Government Public Health Department have heard many questions about the situation at Riverbend and our response to it. We compiled the attached timeline to better illustrate the events at Riverbend thus far and to be transparent about the work we are doing.

Ever since we were first notified of confirmed cases at Riverbend, our staff have been in constant communication with Riverbend leadership to investigate and provide guidance. Our disease investigators have worked diligently to identify who may have been exposed and better understand how the disease spread within the facility. Our staff has provided supplies as well as guidance on staffing and operations to help them protect and take care of their residents and staff.

We recognize that community members in the neighborhoods surrounding the Riverbend facility are concerned for the safety of themselves and their neighbors. The highest risk connected to this cluster of cases is for anyone who has spent time *inside* the facility, in close contact with residents or staff who are infected. People in the surrounding neighborhoods who have not been inside the Riverbend building or in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 10 minutes) with someone who has COVID-19 are not likely to be at higher risk than anyone else living in Wyandotte County.

That being said, we have seen a number of cases across Wyandotte County, some of which have been tied to group gatherings like church events. It is important that *everyone* in our community take precautions, including:

- Staying home as much as possible: it's crucial for all of us to follow the Governor's Stay At Home order, and to only leave home for essential activities like getting groceries
- Practicing social distancing: when you do need to leave your home for essential activities, keep 6 feet between yourself and others
- Practicing good hygiene: please continue washing your hands or using hand sanitizer frequently and covering your coughs and sneezes

Thank you for doing your part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect our community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Allen Greiner  
Chief Medical Officer  
Unified Government Public Health Department

# Riverbend COVID-19 Data

*As of April 16, 2020*

- **92** residents tested positive
- **24** staff tested positive
- **10** residents in the hospital
- **19** resident deaths

## Timeline

Dates (2020)	Events connected to Riverbend
3/24-3/27	Riverbend staff member's symptoms starting during this window of time (later became the first staff member with confirmed COVID-19)
3/27-3/28	Riverbend staff member reported to work with cough and fever we believe was from COVID-19; admitted to working without appropriate PPE  As of 4/13, UGPHD suspects that many patients may have been exposed during this time. However, investigation is still under way to determine if this was the initial exposure of there may have been prior exposure to the virus at the facility.
3/29	Riverbend staff member went to local ER and ER did swab for COVID-19 testing
3/30	Results from staff member's test came back <b>to the hospital</b> ; KDHE and UGPHD were notified. UGPHD staff began trying to contact the patient, but were unable to reach this individual. UGPHD did not have information on where the patient worked at this time. <b>Riverbend had not been notified at this time.</b>
3/31	Riverbend contacted UGPHD staff indicating that they were short on some PPE ( <b>needed for general operations to protect staff and residents</b> ); UGPHD staff delivered eye protection and faceshields to Riverbend
4/2  <b>CORRECTION: 4/1</b>	<b><del>4/2</del> 4/1: Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) received first notification of confirmed cases at Riverbend, and reported to the State</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UGPHD heard that patients with COVID-19 had been sent from Riverbend to a local hospital.</li> <li>• <del>UGPHD staff reached out to Riverbend</del> <b>Riverbend reached out to UGPHD</b> and they reported having one employee and one resident positive, and that they were testing 20 residents.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Epidemiologist reported the outbreak to KDHE</li> </ul>
<b>4/3</b>	<p>UGPHD confirmed additional information with patient and Riverbend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UGPHD reached the patient and confirmed that this person worked at Riverbend</li> <li>Chief Medical Officer and Chief Epidemiologist had a call with Riverbend leadership; discussed methods they were taking to prevent spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>UGPHD determined in consultation with a Kansas Department of Health and Environment that Riverbend was taking appropriate steps.</li> </ul>
<b>4/6</b>	<p>UGPHD review facility practices and begin providing testing for staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Medical Officer visited Riverbend facility and conducted a brief visual inspection</li> <li>UGPHD leadership and two epidemiologists from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) had a call with Riverbend leadership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed all infection control efforts taken previously and currently in place. UGPHD and KDHE felt that the leadership and the facility was doing everything in their power to prevent further spread.</li> </ul> </li> <li>UGPHD began providing testing for Riverbend employees</li> </ul>
<b>4/8</b>	<p>Chief Medical Officer and Chief Epidemiologist had a call with Riverbend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverbend notified UGPHD of nursing and housekeeping staffing shortages</li> </ul>
<b>4/9</b>	<p>Chief Medical Officer and Chief Epidemiologist had a call with Riverbend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UGPHD provided guidance on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The few residents who tested negative (could quarantine with family)</li> <li>Initial guidance on when staff could come back to work, PPE</li> <li>Reached out for volunteer nursing help</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4/10</b>	<p>Chief Medical Officer provided letter for Riverbend on staffing shortages and guidance on staff who were in close contact with a confirmed case or who tested positive</p>

## Other notable events

### *Between 4/3 and 4/16*

- Admitted additional patients to local hospitals after they developed respiratory symptoms (10 hospitalized as of 4/16)
- Riverbend closed the communal dining facility as well as their physical therapy gym

- Riverbend began keeping patients in their rooms while attempting to move COVID-19 positive patients into a cohort wing of the facility