

Updated 10/27/20

Dear members of the Austen Riggs Center Community:

I am writing today to report that a member of our staff tested positive for COVID-19. In line with our safety protocols, the staff member will remain in isolation and off campus until medically cleared to return.

All patients and staff have been notified and contact tracing for the staff member's interactions at Riggs was done for the period beginning two days prior to the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. Two patients and two staff were identified as having potential low-risk exposures. Their exposure risk is low enough that these patients and staff do not meet Centers for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for quarantine. They are, however, being asked to remain vigilant as they self-monitor and pursue testing out of an abundance of caution.

Since the pandemic began last spring, we have been fortunate to have no patients test positive for COVID-19. We believe our safety protocols have played a vital part in that outcome. With the onset of cold weather and the resurgence of the virus throughout the country, we remain even more vigilant in safeguarding the Riggs community. To that end, we will soon be instituting weekly COVID testing for patients and staff on campus. In addition, we are requiring all patients and staff to obtain flu shots unless they have a documented medical reason not to do so.

The next several months will continue to pose significant challenges for us all, and I remain grateful for your understanding and support as we meet those challenges.

Be well,

Eric M. Plakun, MD
Medical Director/CEO