

Updated 12/14/20

Dear Members of the Austen Riggs Center Community:

I'm writing to inform you that we learned last Friday that one of our administrative staff tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 on Thursday, Dec. 10. The staff member was not at work when we received the test result, had no symptoms and, in accordance with Riggs COVID policies, did not come to work, entered isolation, and will not return to campus until meeting our safety criteria.

This colleague interacts with other staff members, but rarely has patient contact. Our nursing staff contact tracing suggests that no one at Riggs was in close contact with this person while potentially infectious. We are monitoring this situation and will share any updates that impact the community as they develop.

This kind of early detection of the virus in people who feel fine allows us to implement prompt contact tracing, and is the reason we have invested in on-site testing for patients and staff twice weekly.

My thanks, as always, for your support, and stay well.

Eric M. Plakun, MD
Medical Director/CEO