



1. How come the staff workers at Carter House were required to be tested for the virus but us in mandatory quarantine from the rescue squad have not been tested? But instead have to self-monitor & report back to 3 Rivers on a daily basis for 14 days?

When individuals test positive for Covid-19, contact tracing is conducted by the health department to identify all close contacts they may have had. When those close contacts are identified, they are then screened by the health department to determine if they are experiencing a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms. Per CDC guidance, if these individuals report no symptoms, they are instructed to self-quarantine and take their temperature daily which they report back to our staff for 14 days. This is the process that was implemented regarding the rescue squad in question.

As the situation at the Carter House developed and the scope of the situation became apparent, decisions were made in conjunction with Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services to forgo the typical protocol in order to act quickly and contain the spread of COVID-19. This included mass testing at the facility of all residents and staff. This decision is abnormal and required quick and decisive action to protect the community. It is not the standard protocol.

2. You might think it's not relevant where the people have been in the community, but I assure you the community WANTS TO KNOW.

We understand the desire of community members to know where individuals who have tested positive have been. Throughout the situation we have done our due diligence to notify the community of any areas of possible exposure. However, at the situation has progressed and the scope of COVID-19 has grown, it is not feasible to continue to generate lists of locations.

It is in the best interest of all community members to assume that the virus is already in your community. No matter where you are at or who you are around, it is imperative you continue to practice social distancing and follow proper hygiene guidelines which include:

- Maintaining a distance of 6 feet between individuals
- Stay home if you are feeling sick
- Cover coughs & sneezes with tissues or use the inside of your elbow
- Clean your hands often, preferably with soap & water or using at least 60% alcohol hand sanitizer until soap & water can be accessed
- Clean & disinfect frequently touched surfaces or items

3. How is the spread "contained" if you simply moved the people to another facility?? Now the spread has just been moved to someplace else. How is that better for the community?

The decision to remove residents from Carter House was made in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. Due to the extent of exposure throughout the facility, it was determined that it was necessary to remove all residents & staff so a deep cleaning could be done. A determining factor in the relocation of those residents was the availability of staff trained in how to provide proper care to residents while also mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

4. **Do the tests only show positive if symptoms are present? You've said that they tested negative on one date but could show positive later when symptoms develop. If so, how can you move the "negative" patients to another facility and have the others be safe?**

The current testing can detect the COVID-19 virus if it is in your system. Individuals can develop symptoms at varying degrees of severity. The most common symptoms identified by the CDC currently include cough, fever & shortness of breath. Again, the decision to remove residents from Carter House was made in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. Whether residents initially tested positive or negative, they were placed in locations with staff trained in how to provide proper care to residents while also mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

5. **At what point was the facility closed to visitors & was it sufficient time to indicate the incubation period expired other than for the residents & caregivers?**

Per Matt Conely, Executive Director of Carter Place, the facility was closed to visitors as of March 12th. As soon as the first case was confirmed, Three Rivers began case investigation & implemented isolation & quarantine protocols for the facility.

6. **They view pre-hospital responders as a non-priority, they have made this clear.**

The CDC has released guidance on the prioritization for testing patients with suspected COVID-19 infections which our health department & local healthcare providers use. That guidance can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/priority-testing-patients.pdf>

7. **Salons are still in business. Aren't they supposed to be shut down? How are you monitoring them?**

The governor has released Directed Health Measures (DHM) which provide guidance on the closure of businesses and other entities. As of right now, that guidance limits facilities such as gyms & salons to having only 10 customers or patrons in a room or confined space at one time but does not mandate they close entirely. If a facility is open or closed, it is at that facility's discretion. We strongly recommend that establishments who fall under the Governor's Directed Health Measure for our jurisdiction follow the recommended social distancing guidance of 6ft between individuals & are consistently disinfecting frequently touched surfaces & items. For additional, information you can read those measures here.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bsro5om6vs0rmtz/DHM%203.30.2020.pdf?dl=0>

If you have concerns about a location, we recommend you contact local law enforcement and your state representative. [Three Rivers is making every effort to inform the community of the guidance and recommendations, but we do not have the capability of enforcing the state DHM.](#)