

Buckner Retirement Services Weekly Update September 15, 2020

Dear Buckner Residents and Families,

Testing is the topic on all our minds, as the ability to implement reliable rapid testing at our communities is the solution we believe is the most effective in safely welcoming back guests, a need I address in my new video: <https://youtu.be/ATKE3E9A81c>.

There are two primary types of tests for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19: viral tests and antibody tests. According to the CDC, a viral test tells you if you have a current infection, while an antibody test might tell you if you had a past infection.

Viral tests are what we use when performing our routine community testing, as we are looking for potential active cases. There are two primary types of viral tests: polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and antigen tests.

PCR testing requires specific equipment and chemicals to identify genetic material from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is why we send our samples to a lab and must wait a few days for results. Equipment and chemical shortages can also cause testing backlogs. Meanwhile, antigen tests provide a much faster result that can be read in-house, as it tests for proteins that live on the virus' surface.

Antigen tests are what the University of Texas used to test thousands of students prior to admitting them to Saturday's football home opener. Antigen tests are becoming faster, more affordable, and even more reliable as our knowledge of the virus grows.

We believe the use of antigen tests at our community entrances will provide a much needed front-line of defense, while the use of PCR tests can offer an added level of security and confirmation. Access to testing is needed to safely and effectively reunite our residents with their families, but state and federal officials must prioritize testing for senior living communities alongside hospitals – and certainly above college football.

You may email me at Charlie.Wilson@Buckner.org for a customizable letter to send Governor Abbott and other state officials regarding safe, comprehensive strategies to reopen nursing and assisted living care levels – or click [here](#).

For a detailed timeline regarding COVID-19 cases specific to your community, visit Tinyurl.com/BucknerPandemic. The following is a summary for quick reference:

Community COVID-19 Active Case Summary (Residents & Associates)

	Active PUIs	Active Positive Cases
Baptist Retirement Community	0	0
Buckner Villas	0	0
Calder Woods	0	0
Parkway Place	1	9

Ventana	0	1
Westminster Place	0	2

Please continue to visit the BRS website (www.BucknerRetirement.org) for our community case tracker and timelines, as well as our lists of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) –you may also call 855-754-3338 with questions at any time.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you, and God bless.

Sincerely,
Charlie Wilson
Senior Vice President
Buckner Retirement Services