For Immediate Release

Tests of Towers residents, workers return only one positive COVID-19 result

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (April 16, 2020) — Tests of more than 100 residents and workers associated with West Virginia University’s Evansdale Residential Complex have been completed, with only one additional resident testing positive for COVID-19, Monongalia County Health Department and West Virginia University jointly announce.

Tests were administered after WVU was informed Sunday that a resident had tested positive.

In all, 108 individuals were tested. The second case is being investigated by Monongalia County Health Department, and the individual is in self-isolation. MCHD staff conducted swab tests on the students and the West Virginia National Guard swabbed employees.

With tests complete, other residents of the Evansdale complex, popularly known as Towers, have been released from self-quarantine.

Other steps taken as a result of the initial positive test include:

- Evansdale Café, as well as all community restrooms and gathering areas in the Evansdale Residential Complex, were deep cleaned.
- A package with a mask, gloves and disinfectant wipes was delivered to each resident’s room, as well as meals.

The complex houses fewer than 100 individuals who requested to remain on campus for a variety of reasons when students were asked not to return following spring break, which ended March 22.
As the effort to contain the coronavirus outbreak, Monongalia County Health Department along with WVU, reminds everyone to:

- Follow good hygiene practices, including frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people and stay home as much as possible.
- Wear a mask or face covering in public.

In addition, Gov. Jim Justice’s order remains in effect limiting outdoor activities to five individuals who maintain a social distancing of at least six feet from each other and requiring essential businesses to order employees and/or contractors, to the maximum extent possible, to work from home or residence, or to otherwise work remotely.

Additionally, no one should leave their residence other than for an essential activity. This includes limiting visits to the greatest extent possible.

If you are feeling sick, call first before seeking medical care. Students with health questions or concerns should contact WVU Medicine Student Health at 304-285-7200. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources established a hotline to address questions and concerns. Operators are available 24/7, toll-free at 800-887-4304. WVU Medicine Urgent Care is also offering virtual video visits (wvumedicine.org/wvum-services/urgent-care/urgent-care-video-visits/) at no cost.

Other questions may be directed to MCHD at (304) 598-5152 or email coronavirus@mail.wvu.edu

Check out monchd.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @WVMCHD and on Instagram at #wvmchd for up-to-date information on health and wellness in the community.

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