

Dear Media and Citizens of Clinton County,

After testing all staff, on Wednesday, April 29, we began to learn of positive cases of COVID-19 among staff at Carlyle Healthcare. Due to the fact that tests do not come back all at one time, it took just over 24 hours to determine if the facility could function without these staff members. In a crisis situation, CDC guidance allows for asymptomatic positive persons in a healthcare facility to provide treatment for COVID-19 positive patients. At this time, the decision has been made to quarantine all COVID-19 positive staff of the facility at home.

This situation illustrates the importance of assuming everyone you come into contact with is positive, because they very well may be. It also illustrates the importance of wearing a mask yourself when you are in a public situation, because you may have COVID-19 and not know it, just as several staff members at Carlyle Healthcare did.

During the outbreak at Carlyle Healthcare, the care and wellness of the patients and the staff has been the focus of Public Health and the management of the facility, as has the protection of the community. The testing of all staff has provided us with clarity about the situation and with an ability to implement an even more effective mitigation strategy. However, an effective strategy requires attention to detail, so this is why the community did not witness an instantaneous response. Residents, staff and community at large all had to be taken into consideration. All test results had to be obtained. I stand by the strategy and applaud the management of Carlyle Healthcare Facility for their attention to detail.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help us beat this virus.

Sean Eifert, Administrator
Clinton County Health Department