

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Theresa Phillips <mother\_theressa907@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:36 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** MVM employees oppose asymptomatic testing  
**Attachments:** Dec 6, Doc 1.pdf

Hello-

Theressa Phillips here. My union rep advised me to send in a copy of the petition that was started at Mountain View Manor opposing the asymptomatic-testing-of-staff mandate. I will be calling in to read the letter at the meeting tomorrow. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Theressa

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To whom it may concern:

This letter has been written on behalf of Petersburg Mountain View Manor Employees and is in regards to the asymptomatic testing mandate for that was proposed on 11/30/2020. We, the undersigned, are opposed to this mandate for the following reasons:

- 1) **We are not required by state licensing to complete any asymptomatic testing.** If it is not state required, why is it even being considered?
- 2) **We have already taken every precaution necessary to minimize risk,** including but not limited to daily temperature checks, completing a daily symptom & exposure related questionnaire, wearing a mask for the duration of our shifts, excessive hand washing, social distancing outside of work, travel restrictions, and more. If any staff member is exhibiting any listed symptom, including extremely common ailments like headaches, runny nose, or diarrhea, the staff member is immediately sent home, and must have a negative covid test result to come back to work. In addition, any visitors have to go through a screening procedure to enter the building per our reopening plan. We absolutely love our residents and are committed to keeping them safe and healthy! We feel that these precautions have worked very well at keeping them safe over the past 10 months, even during times where Petersburg was experiencing multiple cases at once.
- 3) **We have had zero COVID hospitalizations and minimal cases over the past year,** with most cases being travel related and not affiliated with community spread, asymptomatic or not. Considering this fact paired with the precautions already being taken, we feel that the risk of exposure is rather low and asymptomatic testing is unneeded.
- 4) **The turnaround for test results takes so long, it is absolutely pointless for people who continue to work while waiting for results.** It is no secret that some people in Petersburg are waiting up to 2 weeks to receive test results due to the magnitude of testing being done. If stopping transmission early is the goal here, asymptomatic testing being completed every week but taking 2 weeks to receive results is asinine. One could argue that it takes less time to recover from COVID than it takes to receive your test result back.
- 5) **The PCR test has the potential to detect not only virus, but also genetic fragments that are leftovers from previous infection which pose no risk.** The PCR test by nature amplifies and duplicates small segments of DNA in cycles. Most tests set a limit of cycles at 37 or 40 because it can be argued that any cycle past this point is detecting genetic fragments that pose no risk of transmission. To detect a positive COVID case at PMC, samples are ran for 45 cycles. Director of infectious diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci stated that "if somebody does come in with [a cycle value of] 37, 38, even 36, you got to say, you know, it's just dead nucleotides, period." Why is the cycle cut off at PMC 5 cycles above what is recommended for testing for this disease? Does that not cause inaccurate results and possible false positives which has the potential to inflate case numbers?
- 6) **Unneeded testing has the potential to gravely impact staffing.** False positives from inaccurate data procurement will cause unneeded quarantines and, in turn, will put dramatic pressure on the facility as a whole. The lack of available staff members will amplify the burnout of existing staff members. Any staff member who tests "positive" has the potential to be out for weeks at a time, considering they will be forced to wait for a negative test and testing turnaround is anywhere from 3 to 14 days. The threat of reduced staffing is all based on this form of testing and subsequent contact tracing.

- 7) The World Health Organization came forward back in June and stated publicly that asymptomatic spread is rare. WHO's technical lead Maria Van Kerkhove said that while it can happen, "asymptomatic spread is unlikely to be a major driver of clusters or community transmission of infection." So why test anyone who has no connection to symptoms or sickness when so many other precautions are already being taken?

Our biggest concern is potential lockdowns that will have a negative effect on the mental and emotional health of our residents. This was a very hard year for them not being allowed to see family and barely understanding why. They felt lonely and abandoned. We have spent days, months, and years of our lives caring for our residents. We have fostered these relationships that are built on love, compassion, trust, and complete and total care. Unfortunately, proceeding with this mandate will force many of our employees to make a very hard personal decision in continuing to care for our residents at MVM. Please genuinely consider our concerns and the actual need of asymptomatic testing.

Sincerely,

Theresa Phillips

KC Warden

Penelope Sticher

Candra Edwards

~~Christa Jackson~~

Jessica B. Rany

Bl Birch

Luke E

Jonica

AN Short

Mike Sell

Lynn Homme

JJ  
Jutunpanda

hustle  
(Norie Steuber)

Maquell Lopez

Axi Mif

Silvia

~~Christina Jackson~~  
(Christina Jackson)