



Desmar Walkes MD
Bastrop County Local Health Authority
1505 Business Parkway
Bastrop, Texas 78602

April 24, 2020

Mr. Brian Threadgill
Regency Healthcare
5301 W Duval Road, Suite A-600
Austin, Texas 78727
bthreadgill@regencyhealthcare.com

Transmitted via email

Dear Mr. Threadgill:

Since Governor Abbott declared a state of emergency due the COVID 19 Pandemic on March 13, 2020, the Bastrop County Emergency Operations Center has deployed resources to mitigate the situation. Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape and the Office of Emergency Management would like to perform tests on thirty residents and fifteen staff in one nursing home in Bastrop, Smithville and Elgin. The cost of the study would be covered by Bastrop County. This study would give us information about the prevalence of asymptomatic transmission of COVID 19 in these congregant facilities.

Recent experience with outbreaks in nursing homes has reinforced that nursing home residents with COVID-19 may not report typical symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms; some may not report any symptoms. Unrecognized asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic infections likely contribute to transmission in these settings and we would like to prevent this if possible.

Please be assured that our nurses are highly trained professionals who will wear full PPE. Informed consent will be obtained from the patients or their family member who has medical power of attorney before tests are performed. The results of the tests will be kept confidential following HIPPA guidance.

I look forward to answering any question if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Desmar Walkes MD
Bastrop County Local Health Authority