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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Family-Guardian Communication
...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 10/23/20

In our effort to maintain open and honest communication, we will continue to send you updates when appropriate concerning all Respiratory Viral Outbreaks as well as The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We hope you find this information helpful.

Resident Update

All of our Residents remain well.

Staff Update

Two Staff Members, not having any signs or symptoms of illness (one direct caregiver and one non-direct caregiver) have tested positive for COVID-19 via our weekly routine testing. Nursing contacted our Family-Guardians of the Residents cared for by the direct caregiver. Three Staff Members that previously tested positive have recovered and returned to work.

Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing

Following The NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) guidance, weekly testing of all Residents and Staff continues until further notice. So far, all results are negative for this week.

Visitation

Our target date to start indoor visitation per NJ DOH Executive Directive No. 20-025 is delayed due to our COVID-19 positive Staff and weekly outbreak testing. The Directive requires us to be COVID-19 free for 14 days and our required outbreak testing is no longer required by the NJ DOH in order to start. We will inform you as soon as we are permitted to begin indoor visitation. In the meantime, Outdoor Visitation continues, weather permitting. Please contact your Child's Social Worker or Nursing Supervisor to arrange a visit. Video Visitation is also available via Skype, Zoom or FaceTime. We encourage you to contact your VPF Social Worker to help arrange this.

OVER

Member of National Association of
Children's Hospitals & Related Institutions

Phased Reopening

The NJ DOH recently revised Executive Directive No. 20-026, which establishes mandatory procedures that long-term care facilities must meet in order to safely reopen to all visitors and resume normal operations. The phased reopening is based on the outbreak status of a facility and ability to meet the following criteria, including but not limited to: Testing of Staff and Residents, Maintaining Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices, Appropriate Staffing and Sufficient Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE). When facilities are COVID-19 free for 14 days and no longer conducting outbreak testing they may restore services for Residents, in phases, starting with indoor visitation. Since we have COVID-19 positive cases and conducting required weekly testing, we cannot proceed. We must be COVID-19 free for a period of 14 days, have discontinued required outbreak testing **and** be cleared from The NJ DOH to proceed with the phases outlined in the Executive Directive of a safe reopening.

Our Commitment

Resident and Staff wellness and safety is our top priority. Please be reassured we continue to follow all core standards of Infection Prevention and Control measures partnering with the NJ DOH to maintain our current state of wellness. Our commitment to wellness has been verified during an unannounced visit, an Infection Prevention and Control focused Survey, on 9/9 by the NJ DOH. We are happy to report that we are in full compliance with all of the federal and state rules, guidelines and standards of care specific to Infection Prevention and Control.

Our Appreciation


A heartfelt thank you for your continued patience, support and trust in us. Be well.


Friendly reminder: It is flu season! We encourage our Family-Guardians to receive a flu vaccine to help keep us all well especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of NJ requires all individuals employed in any NJ Healthcare Facility receive a yearly flu vaccine unless they have a medical exemption from a healthcare provider. We are in the process of providing the vaccine to our Staff. All of our Residents with Family-Guardian permission have received the flu vaccine.


The Interdisciplinary Team


#JERSEYSTRONG

REMEMBER: YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

 **Crisis Text Line:** Text "NJ" to 741741

 **Family Helpline:** 1-800-843-5437

 **Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-572-7233

 **Mental Health Hotline:** 866-202-4357

