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Providing Specialized Nursing  
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

**Weekly Family-Guardian Communication**  
...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 10/8/20

*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 Residents remain well. We continue to closely monitor 8 of our Residents due to a COVID-19 exposure by a direct care Staff.

**Staff Update**

We have 2 Staff Members at home recovering from COVID-19. One of the Staff Members was newly diagnosed this week. There was no exposure to any Resident or Staff Member.

**Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing**

Following The NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) guidance and due to our outbreak status, weekly testing of all Residents and Staff continues. We are completing our 15th week of testing. So far all of our Residents and Staff have tested negative. Weekly testing will continue until the NJ DOH declares our outbreak is over. We will keep you updated.

**Visitation**

The NJ DOH issued Executive Directive No. 20-025 permitting **indoor** visitation for Pediatric Residents following strict guidelines. Our target date to start is delayed due to our outbreak status. The Directive requires us to be COVID-19 and/or respiratory virus free for 28 days to permit indoor visitation. 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.

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### **Phased Reopening**

Recently, The NJ DOH issued Executive Directive No. 20-026 establishing 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, its ability to meet criteria, including but not limited to testing of Staff and Residents, infection control standards, and adequate Staffing and Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) following the State's reopening plan. When facilities are outbreak free, they may restore services for Residents, in phases, starting with indoor visitation and the restart of normal activities. Since we are in an outbreak, we cannot move forward. We must be COVID and/or Respiratory Virus free for a period of 28 days **and** be cleared from The NJ DOH to proceed with the phases outlined for a safe reopening.

### **Our Commitment**

Resident and Staff wellness and safety is our top priority. Please be reassured we continue to follow all necessary Infection Prevention and Control measures partnering with the NJ DOH to maintain our current state of wellness. Our commitment to wellness has been verified - we had an unannounced visit, an Infection Prevention and Control focused Survey, on 9/9 by the NJ DOH. We are happy to report that we were found to be in full compliance with all of the federal and state rules, guidelines and standards of care specific to Infection Prevention and Control. There were no concerns raised by The NJ DOH about our practices during this Survey.

### **Our Appreciation**

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

Be well.

Friendly reminder: It is flu season and 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 now 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 vaccine.

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