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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Family-Guardian Communication

...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team – 12/4/20

In our effort to maintain open and honest communication, we will continue to provide you with updates about all Respiratory Viral Outbreaks and the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We hope you find this information helpful.

Resident Update

We have one Resident that has been diagnosed with the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus, common upper respiratory viruses that circulate in the community this time of year. Symptoms can include fever, runny nose and wheezing. Nursing has directly contacted the Family-Guardian of the Resident diagnosed with the viruses. All Residents previously diagnosed with the virus have recovered. We are working closely with the NJ Department of Health and taking all necessary steps to control the spread of the viruses.

Staff Update

We have five Staff Members who tested positive for COVID-19 this week at home on quarantine. Four of the Staff Members are direct caregivers. Our Resident Family-Guardians have been contacted by Nursing if their child was cared for by this Staff Member. In addition, we have one Staff Member under investigation for COVID-19.

Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing

Following The NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) guidance, weekly testing of all Residents and Staff continues. None of our Residents have tested positive during this week's testing. We remain in an outbreak status declared by the NJ DOH due to our positive Staff cases. Weekly testing will continue until further notice.

Visitation

Since we have positive Staff cases of COVID-19, Family-Guardian indoor visitation per NJ DOH Executive Directive 20-025 specific to Pediatric and Residents of Adult Long Term Care Facilities with Developmental Disabilities is delayed. We must be COVID-19 free and no longer conducting outbreak testing (details explained in Phased Reopening section). In the meantime, Outdoor Visitation continues, weather permitting. Due to the time and season change we have relocated outdoor visitation to the Courtyard of the Bancroft School and Medical Day Center located at the back of our building. We have a tent with heaters and additional lighting. Due to the cold weather, we will no longer offer outdoor visitation after 3 pm. Please contact your Child's Social Worker or Nursing Supervisor for more information and 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.

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 follows the NJ State Reopening Plan and is based on the following criteria: the rate of community transmission of COVID-19, a Facility's outbreak status
(Continued over)

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Phased Reopening (continued)

and ability to test Staff and Residents, maintain Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices, have appropriate Staffing and Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE). When facilities are COVID-19 free for 14 days and no longer conducting outbreak testing, they may restore services in phases, starting with indoor visitation for Resident Family-Guardians. Strict guidelines must be followed in all phases outlined in the Executive Directive to ensure a safe reopening. Since we have positive cases of COVID-19, Family/Guardian indoor visitation is delayed for 14 days AND no longer required to conduct outbreak testing by the NJ DOH. A limited, special circumstance indoor visitation defined as "Compassionate Care" is also included in this Directive following strict guidelines during all phases of a Facility's reopening. For VPF, indoor visitation will be considered for newly admitted Residents and Residents and their Family-Guardians experiencing extreme emotional distress. Our Medical Staff, Director of Nursing, Nurse Managers/Supervisors and Social Workers coordinate this specialized visitation scheduled by appointment only. Indoor visitation for End of Life Care is an exception in this Directive and will be supported as needed at any time. Please contact your VPF Social Worker for more information. As a friendly reminder, if Family-Guardians chose to launder their child's clothing and linens, please contact your VPF Social Worker or Nursing Supervisor if interested.

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 is verified again during another unannounced visit, an Infection Prevention and Control focused Survey on 11/13 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Flu Season

We encourage our Family-Guardians to receive a yearly 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.

BE WELL.

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