



1304 Laurel Oak Rd  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
P: 856.346.3300  
F: 856.435.4223

Providing Specialized Nursing  
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

### **Weekly Family-Guardian Communication**

**...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 12/16/2022**

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

#### **Resident Update**

This week one Resident has tested positive for Influenza A. Nursing has contacted our Family-Guardians directly if their child has been effected by this. This is the stain of flu that is currently wide spread in our community. Symptoms can include fever/feeling feverish or have the chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness) vomiting and diarrhea. Flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when someone with flu coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people nearby. A person can get the flu by touching something that has the flu virus on it and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose. The best ways to prevent the spread of this virus includes getting a flu shot, and like with all respiratory viruses' frequent hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces, covering your mouth and nose when cough and sneeze, avoid touching your face and staying home when sick. Please be reassured we are in contact with the NJ Department of Health and taking all necessary steps to control the spread of the virus. An outbreak has been declared. You may continue to visit but we ask if you are not feeling well or have any signs or symptoms of illness to please delay your visit.

We have one additional confirmed case of a Resident testing positive for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Nursing has contacted our Family-Guardians directly if their child was effected by this. Our Residents previously testing positive continue to recover. RSV is a common cause of respiratory illness among individuals in all age groups. Infection usually causes cold symptoms, but often in infants and younger children, RSV infection spreads to the lungs and may lead to bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lungs) and pneumonia. Our Residents previously testing positive for RSV continue to recover. We remain in an outbreak for RSV.

#### **Staff Update**

One Staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 this week and is home on quarantine. There was no exposure to any of our Residents. Two Staff Members previously testing positive remain home on quarantine. Our COVID-19 outbreak continues.

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### **Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing**

Recently The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and The NJ Department of Health (DOH) have updated Testing Guidance and Directives. Routine testing is no longer required for Staff considered by CDC Guidelines not up to date with COVID-19 vaccine boosters. Staff is only required to have the primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine and one booster. We continue with a “contact tracing” testing approach for Residents and Staff if they have had a high risk exposure to COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.

### **Visitation**

We have returned to open access in room visitation for all Resident Family-Guardians. Appointments are not needed and visits take place in the Resident’s Room following strict infection prevention and control practices. Our Visitation Guidelines are available at Front Desk Reception. We offer rapid COVID-19 testing prior to visitation and ask if you are not feeling well or have been exposed to COVID-19 to please delay your visit. It is best to check in at the Nursing Station prior to entering your child’s room for the latest update. We also offer video visitation for our Families upon request. Please contact Social Work or a Nursing Supervisor for more information.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine**

Recently The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EAU) for COVID-19 Bivalent Booster vaccines as recommended by The CDC for everyone 5 years of age and older. This booster targets the Omicron variant. We continue to contact our Resident’s Family-Guardians to discuss administering this booster vaccine. We offer the COVID-19 vaccine series to all eligible Residents age 6 months and older and provide the vaccine with Family-Guardian permission. **Although the vaccine is not mandatory to receive for our Residents and Family-Guardians, it is highly recommended for all individuals to prevent the spread of COVID-19.** The vaccine is readily available at various sites in the community for all NJ Residents. A NJ State toll free Hotline can be contacted at 855-568-0545 to assist you with general questions about the vaccines, eligibility and location of vaccination sites or you can visit the [NJ Hub Website: covid-19.nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov/health/hudat/covid-19/). **We highly encourage ALL to receive the vaccine and recommended boosters!** It is mandatory for all eligible NJ Health Care Workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and first booster series.

### **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 wellness. Throughout the pandemic, our team has worked tirelessly to remain up to date on all current COVID-19 data and recommendations from science and medical experts to make the best decisions for our Residents, Families, Staff and Community.

### **Our Appreciation**

A heartfelt thank you to our Residents, Family-Guardians and Community Care Partners for their continued patience, support and trust in us throughout this pandemic.

### **Important Communication Updates**

Our automated Family-Guardian notification system is in place that is linked to our Electronic Medical Record. We are sending all medical appointments, facility outings and urgent messages including updates about COVID-19 from our automated system to Family-Guardian cell phones or landlines. Other notifications we typically mail may be sent by email if you have an email address. We will continue to mail information for those without an email address. We will continue to mail all Resident Family-Guardians important updates as needed. Our Weekly COVID-19 Update is available on our website for review.

### **FLU SEASON IS HERE!**

We encourage our Residents and Family-Guardians to receive a yearly flu vaccine to help keep us well especially during the COVID-19 PANDEMIC. We are currently contacting our Family-Guardians to discuss giving the flu vaccine to their child 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 will provide the vaccine to all eligible Staff and to our Residents with Family-Guardian permission

**BE WELL.**