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Providing Specialized Nursing  
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

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

**...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 11/10/2023**

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

#### **Resident Update**

Our GI outbreak has been declared over. Two of our Residents previously testing positive for COVID-19 have recovered and one Resident although stable remains in isolation. Our COVID-19 outbreak continues. Several of our Residents have symptoms of the Coxsackievirus or Hand Foot and Mouth Disease. Nursing has contacted you directly if your child is impacted by this. This is a common virus that spreads quickly from person to person through saliva, coughs, sneezes or contact with the feces of an infected person. Symptoms may include fever, sore throat, runny nose, tiny sores in the mouth or rash on hands or feet. There is no treatment for this and the symptoms typically go away within a few days. To prevent the spread of this, wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect high use surfaces and avoid close personal contact with the person having the symptoms. We are partnering with the New Jersey Department of Health following all infection prevention and control measures.

#### **Staff Update**

Three Staff Members have tested positive for COVID-19 and are home on isolation. Nursing has contacted all Resident Family-Guardians directly if their child was effected. Since our outbreak status continues, all Staff and Visitors must wear a surgical mask when with our Residents. When there are no new reported cases for 28 days this outbreak will be declared over.

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

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. COVID-19 testing continues to be offered to all of our Family-Guardians and Community Care Partners at check-up but is not mandatory. All other visitors are required by The NJ DOH to be tested upon check-in.

#### **Visitation**

We have open access visitation taking place in our Resident's room limited to two visitors at a time due to space limitations. We must continue to follow Federal and State Regulations requiring best practice of infection prevention and control. Our Families trained by Staff to care for their child without Staff supervision may visit with their child in our Family Room, Serenity Garden or Playground. Surgical masks are available at check-in and we offer rapid COVID-19 testing prior to visitation. All visitors are required to complete a health screening and temperature check at sign-in. We kindly request if you are not feeling well, have COVID-19 or have been exposed by a close personal contact with COVID-19 or to any illness to please delay your visit. It is best to check in at the Nursing Station prior to entering a Resident'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.

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### **COVID-19 Vaccine**

To best protect our Residents, we continue to offer the COVID-19 vaccine series to all of our eligible Residents age 6 months and older and administer the vaccine with Family-Guardian permission. The vaccines are safe and highly effective and work to prevent the spread of the virus, severe illness, hospitalizations and death. We highly recommend and encourage our Residents and Families to receive the vaccine series. The vaccines are 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/humanservices/covid-19/).

### **Pandemic Federal and State Emergency Declarations**

President Biden officially declared the Federal State of Emergency over as of April 11 and the Federal Public Health State of Emergency over on May 11. Although NJ Governor Murphy had declared the NJ State of Emergency and Public Health State of Emergency over in March 2023, Executive Directive 21-012 implemented by The NJ DOH during the pandemic remains in effect for all NJ DOH licensed NJ Long Term Care Facilities at this time.

### **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. We are thankful for our partnership to help keep us in the best of health during the pandemic and current high respiratory viral session.

### **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 VACCINE**

We encourage our Residents and Family-Guardians to receive a yearly flu vaccine to help keep us well. We provide the vaccine to all of our Residents with Family-Guardian permission. 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 offer and provide the vaccine to all of our eligible Staff.

**Be well.**