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Providing Specialized Nursing  
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

**Weekly Resident Family-Guardian Communication**  
**...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 6/2/2023**

*In an 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**

We continue to have Residents with respiratory and gastrointestinal viral illness. This week additional Residents have tested positive for the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus (R-E) and Parainfluenza 3 (HPIV3). The viruses spread quickly and are common viruses that circulate in the community. Symptoms may include fever, runny nose, cough, wheezing, loose stools and vomiting that can last 7-10 days. The best prevention to contain the spread of the viruses is frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth, avoiding close contact with people who are ill and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. Our outbreak status continues with R-E and HPIV3. Two additional Residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and are in isolation. Of our two Residents testing positive last week, one remains in isolation. The NJ Department of Health has determined this to be an outbreak. As a result, we must **ALL** wear a well-fitting surgical mask while in the building. We continue to partner with The NJ DOH following all necessary infection prevention and control measures to prevent the spread of the viruses. Nursing has contacted all Resident Family-Guardians if their child is directly affected by this. There is no change to our visitation policy at this time.

**Staff Update**

Four Staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 this week and are home on quarantine. A total of eight Staff Members have tested positive for COVID-19 during this outbreak. Five remain home on quarantine.

**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.

**Continued over**

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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/hhs/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. It is not too late! 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.**