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Providing Specialized Nursing  
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

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

**...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 3/3/2023**

*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**

Several additional Residents have been diagnosed with a Gastro-Intestinal Virus having symptoms of loose stools and vomiting. Nursing has contacted all Resident Family-Guardians if their child is effected by this. Frequent hand washing with soap and water and disinfecting all surfaces are the best ways to prevent the spread of this contagious virus. We are taking all necessary measures to contain the spread of this virus. The NJ Department of Health (DOH) has declared this an outbreak.

#### **Staff Update**

Two Staff Members have tested positive for COVID-19 and are home on quarantine. Nursing has contact our Resident Family-Guardians directly if their child is impacted by this. Our COVID-19 Outbreak continues. This outbreak will be declared over after 28 days of no new cases.

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

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and The NJ Department of Health (DOH) 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 or to any illness 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.

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### **COVID-19 Vaccine**

Bivalent Booster vaccines are now recommended by The CDC for everyone 6 months 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 vaccines are 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 vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations and death. 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/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. 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 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. 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.