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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Resident Family-Guardian Communication

...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 4/21/2023

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 and Staff Update

Our Residents and Staff are well.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

The NJ Department of Health (DOH) has declared our outbreak over as of 4/10/2023.

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 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 Federal and State Regulations, Directives and Guidance requiring strict infection prevention and control practices. 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. 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.

Continued over

Member of National Association of
Children's Hospitals & Related Institutions

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 will end the Federal Public Health State of Emergency 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. Strict standards of infection control and prevention must be maintained such as screening all visitors for illness, wearing a well-fitting surgical mask, maintaining social distancing, frequent hand washing and limitations to the number of individuals gathering for a group in an indoor confined space. We anticipate very soon there will be an update from The NJ DOH for long term care facilities as there has recently been for NJ Hospitals and other Outpatient Healthcare Providers.

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.