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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Family-Guardian Communication

...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 10/21/2022

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

All of our other Residents are well, in their typical state of health.

Staff Update

Two Staff Members have tested positive for COVID-19 this week and are home on quarantine. There was no exposure to any of our Residents or Staff. We have a total of two Staff Members home on quarantine at this time. We remain in an outbreak status for COVID-19.

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. 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

Recently The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) for administering The CDC recommended Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Bivalent Booster vaccine 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 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. **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. **Prior to the Federal and State mandate for Staff working in Long Term Care Facilities to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine, we decided to require that all of our Staff be fully vaccinated. We feel this is our responsibility to our community and a necessary step in ending this pandemic. We also had an unannounced visit from the NJ Department of Health on 6/15 to review our Infection Prevention and Control practices, standards of care. We are happy to report that no deficient practices were identified and we are in full compliance with all Federal and State Regulations and standards of care.**

Our Appreciation

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

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 Residents with Family-Guardian permission.

We recently had an unannounced survey by The Joint Commission for our three year reaccreditation. We are happy to report overall the survey went really well and we anticipate receiving our reaccreditation.

Be well.