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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Family-Guardian Communication

...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team – 7/16/2021

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

Resident Update

We have a few new cases of the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus, the common upper respiratory viruses that circulate in the community. Symptoms can include fever, runny nose and wheezing. Nursing has contacted our Resident Family-Guardians directly if their child is affected by this. We are in contact with The NJ Department of Health (DOH) and taking all necessary steps to control the spread of the viruses. We remain in an outbreak monitoring status for the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus with the NJ DOH.

Staff Update

Our Staff are well.

Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing

We are thrilled to report that our COVID-19 Outbreak has been declared over as of 7/5 by the NJ DOH. As a result, routine weekly testing will continue for Staff only that have not received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Compassionate Care Visitation

Effectively immediately, all visitation is held indoor at various locations of our building grounds by appointment only. We must continue to follow all necessary infection prevention and control measures. Visitation is available seven days per week at specific times. We have included a copy of our revised Visitation Guidelines for you with this update. We continue to carefully follow all guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and The NJ DOH working toward a safe reopening for all of our Residents, Families and Staff Members. The challenge for VPF is that 50% of our pediatric Residents are under the age of 12 and not eligible to be vaccinated at this time. Most of the newer guidance is about vaccination of Residents and Staff and permitted activities depending on the vaccination status. When our Residents and Families are fully vaccinated they may have more opportunity and freedom to participate in a variety of unrestricted events, activities. We highly encourage our Families to consider vaccination for all Family Members age 12 and older. Video visitation continues to be available via Skype, Facetime and Zoom. Please contact a VPF Nursing Supervisor or Social Worker for more information and to schedule an appointment for visitation of your child.

Continued over

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Phased Reopening of Long Term Care Facilities

Following the NJ State reopening plan and all of the guidance recommendations from CDC and CMS, The NJ DOH is revising Executive Directive No. 20-206 that established mandatory procedures in order for us to safely reopen to **ALL** visitors and resume normal operations. We continue to comply with this Directive and all appropriate guidance and will communicate to our Family-Guardians any change. Although, The NJ State Government recently lifted "The State of Emergency" declared last March at the start of the pandemic the Executive Directives issued remain in effect for all NJ Long term Care Facilities until further notice. This is necessary to continue to protect and promote the safety and wellness of all individuals residing in long term care facilities.

COVID-19 Vaccine

We continue to offer the vaccine to all of our eligible Residents age 12 and older. We are happy to report that 70% of our Staff are vaccinated and the number of our Residents receiving the vaccine is increasing. **Although the vaccine is not mandatory to receive, 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](https://www.covid-19.nj.gov). We highly encourage all of our Staff, Residents and Family-Guardians to receive the vaccine. If you or any of your family members that visit VPF have received the vaccine, we would appreciate a copy of your vaccine card to help us safely plan for your visitation. **The DOH and Walgreen's has contacted us and offering to hold a vaccination clinic at VPF inviting our Residents' Family-Guardians for the one shot Johnson and Johnson Vaccine. Please contact Nursing for more information and if you are interested in receiving this vaccine at VPF.**

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. We are happy to report that we are in full compliance with all the federal and state rules, guidelines and standards of care specific to Infection Prevention and Control. Since the start of the pandemic we have had 5 deficiency free Infection Control Focused Surveys by the NJ DOH. On 7/13 we had an additional unannounced Infection Control Focused Survey by the NJ DOH and happy to report once again are in full compliance with all standards and regulations.

Our Appreciation

A heartfelt thank you for your continued patience, support and trust in us. We respect and appreciate our partnership with you.

Important FLU Reminder

We encourage our Family-Guardians to receive a yearly flu vaccine to help keep us all well especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not too late! 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. All of our eligible Staff and residents have received the flu vaccine.

Important Communication Update

Our automated Family-Guardian notification system is in place that is linked to our Electronic Medical Record. We are sending all urgent messages from our automated system to your cell phone or landline. In the near future, other notifications we typically mail including this Weekly Update will be sent by email if there is an available email address. We will continue to mail information for those with email address.

Be well.