

May 28, 2021

Dear Families,

After the remainder of this week's testing, two additional fully vaccinated and asymptomatic residents tested positive for COVID-19. Employee testing was done Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and no positive results were detected. Most of the COVID-positive residents reside on one wing of one unit; two who resided on other units have been relocated to that same unit in order to cohort COVID positive residents to one area in an effort to prevent spread to other units.

We have been in contact with the PA Department of Health and Quality Insights (contractually committed to the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services, or CMS, with assisting facilities experiencing cases) to review our policies and practices to ensure we are doing everything we can to contain any further spread. In addition, we have requested guidance from these agencies as to why we are experiencing positive cases among fully vaccinated residents, especially asking whether there is a possible need for a booster since we are now almost 5 months past our initial vaccination date.

Interestingly, our contact from Quality Insights indicated that they had a two-week lull in referrals from CMS and now their schedules are once again full with reaching out to and assisting facilities experiencing positive cases, some also among fully vaccinated residents.

Since the vaccine has been offered, all manufacturers as well as our state and federal governments have cautioned us that the vaccine does **not** 100% prevent COVID from occurring, but that someone who does test positive could and should have less severe or no symptoms.

While it is unfortunate, these additional cases will extend the quarantine at least another two weeks from May 27<sup>th</sup> for residents on the D1 unit, rooms D113 to D124. We will continue testing twice weekly, as required by DOH, and will keep you apprised as necessary. It is our hope that we may be able to lift quarantine status on C1, C2 and D2 units sooner and will notify you when that is possible.

E1 and E2 residents as well as residents in Our Lady of the Alleghenies may have in-person visits.

Virtual visits continue to be offered for residents on the C1, D1, C2 and D2 units.

We will begin accepting online scheduling of virtual visits through our website Visits page for those of you who will be connecting to your loved one using an iPhone or iPad. If you will be using a device other than an iPhone or iPad, please contact us by phone at (814) 317-1231 to schedule a virtual visit. This online scheduling tool is available today.

In addition, future updates to the primary contacts who are not on our e-mail list will be made by recorded voice message to the landline and/or cell phone number we have on file for you. Please note that these calls will be coming from (814) 940-5945, not from the facility's phone number. A mailed letter will follow.

We will have another vaccine clinic for residents and employees on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I am sure you are aware that Pennsylvania is loosening restrictions after Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. We will keep our state and community in our prayers, along with our ongoing prayers for our residents and you, their families. We appreciate your prayers as well.

Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, is Memorial Day, a time for us to remember and reflect on the ultimate sacrifices made by many heroic men and women in our country's history. We honor and pray for all men and women in uniform, past, present and future.

*Joann Kasun*

Assistant Administrator