

Good evening families,



Throughout the week we have received many calls with questions regarding the false negative test Laura Vaillancourt called to inform families about last Friday and Saturday. This particular employee was out of work for a week before the results came in, as a result we had one week remaining of vigilant watch. We activated our Emergency Plan to its full degree which involved closing our kitchen and bringing in a company to sanitize our kitchen, quarantining particular employees for the week and networking with Northland Restaurant to assist us in heating our emergency food, McDonald's assisted with breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. As of today, Friday, April 10 the kitchen is fully functional and running at full capacity!

We have been following the frequently changing guidance provided by the CDC and CMS which includes all employees wearing masks. Although the CDC has relaxed regulations and guidance on mask utilization and when employees may return to work we have decided to not relax the practices at Saint Vincent's. We believe the best way to combat the threat of Covid-19 from entering the building is to wear appropriate masks and to change these masks multiple times per shift. Each employee is provided with 3 surgical masks per shift, more if necessary, opposed to the horror stories we have read in the media of 1-2 masks per week or use of a homemade mask. Catholic Charities New Hampshire has been working with a variety of vendors to ensure we have enough gowns, masks, face shields and gloves to properly care for our residents and reduce the spread of infection.

I hope to provide assurance that we are not looking to admit anyone with an active case of Covid-19. We have established a plan to quarantine a segment of the building so in the event we have an active case of Covid-19 we can move the sick individual(s) to an area where we stop the spread of transmission. My hope is we never have to activate the plans to this degree but we prefer to be prepared.

Some positive highlights from the week that the residents enjoyed doing/playing...

Hallway arts & crafts

Hallway Happy hour with beer/wine

Small groups outdoors to enjoy the change in weather

Holy Week

While we know this is incredibly difficult for you to be shut out from seeing your loved ones, please know we are doing our best to ensure each resident feels safe and loved by us here at St. Vincent's. The staff are working so hard to stay positive and we are finding ways to keep morale up.

Stay well and again, please let us know if there is anything more we can be doing.

Best Regards,

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