

June 5, 2020



Greetings,

We have exciting news to share with families and friends of our residents. On Thursday, June 4 the National Guard arrived at St. Vincent's to conduct baseline testing for staff. I am thrilled to share each employee arrived on-site to complete their testing. Extra kudos to staff for being flexible, the National Guard arrived two hours earlier than scheduled and requested to end as soon as they could; staff adjusted as necessary to meet their request. We are now anxiously waiting for the results which we anticipate will arrive next week. I hesitate to provide an approximate timeframe due to the volume of tests being managed. Moving forward, each staff member and roughly 6 residents will be tested approximately every 10 days. The state of New Hampshire has contracted with a lab and we have been informed the turnaround time should be 48-72 hours.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid is collecting COVID- 19 data from each nursing home, reporting weekly is mandated. This data is now available on Nursing Home Compare for individuals to see how each nursing home in the United States has or has not been affected by COVID- 19. A "suspected" case is reported for STV, this is based on a resident who was re-admitted to STV and tested for COVID- 19 at Androscoggin Valley Hospital prior to re-admission. We received the results a few days later which were negative.

Candy O'Neil, Activity Director, has been ensuring her staff and nursing staff are taking the resident outside to enjoy the outdoors. The challenge comes from one resident in the elevator at once, but through teamwork the residents are too enjoying this beautiful weather!

We have been fielding numerous calls regarding visitations and when we anticipate visitors can enter the building again. I wish I can provide a projected timeline but any information presented would be misinformation; once we receive an update from DHHS and develop a process with Catholic Charities New Hampshire I will immediately update everyone regarding visitations. Until then, please continue window visits and/or use Google Duo.

Take care,

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