

October 30, 2020



Greetings,

I hope each of you are doing well. We conducted our last round of testing 10% of staff and next week 100% of staff will be tested for COVID-19. As you may recall the state of New Hampshire adjusted their testing mandates to 100% of staff once a month and 10% of staff each subsequent week. Catholic Charities New Hampshire understands the best way to identify new cases of COVID-19 is for frequent and widespread testing. Beginning next week St. Vincent's will be testing 100% of staff every other week and 10% of staff the other two weeks of the month. In addition to the increased testing we also have the antigen testing machine available to test staff or residents, we feel blessed to have the antigen machine with the lowest error rate.

As a result of cases within the county last week we were moved into Phase 2, we have unfortunately since been moved into Phase 1 per state requirements. What does this mean? We have seized non-essential persons from entering the building. This includes the dentist, hairdresser and podiatrist unless medically necessary. We cannot bring a resident to a routine medical visit outside of our building. Staff will also be wearing additional PPE to reduce a risk of transmission until we move out of this phase. Resident visits are still able to be scheduled and conducted as planned in Phases 1-3!

Lastly, last week I mentioned the holiday season will be rapidly approaching us and we will be organizing a team to coordinate how to best implement resident visitations during the holiday season. Jill is not scheduling December visitations until we have organized a plan; our intention is to ensure every resident has the opportunity for visitations while maximizing the number of visitations available. Visits must still be scheduled in advance, screening before/upon arrival and supervised. We were unable to host our annual Craft Fair which supports our resident Christmas Party and we intend to still host a gathering for our residents; with social distancing and small groups in mind and if allowed based on the particular phase we are in at the time.

In February who would have thought we would continue to navigate COVID during the holiday season and unfortunately this time of year is a challenging time for many individuals. We have begun receiving telephone calls and emails from family members and associates of a few residents regarding Thanksgiving, Christmas and even birthday parties. If you have specific concerns, questions or comments we would like to hear from you to ensure we all have the same understanding regarding the state's requirements for long-term care facilities.

Thank you,

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