

February 19, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff,



The frequency of updates has decreased over the last week which is a blessing because it signifies resident and staff tests continue to be negative. Our results from Tuesday's PCR tests have returned and were negative. We adjusted our time for testing and pickup with the carrier in hopes we receive results sooner than Friday. This will allow us to work with our COVID case manager with DHHS and request a return to Phase 1.

It has been slightly over six weeks since we were in Phase 1 and visitations were scheduled. As we anticipate the return to visitations I would like to revisit the Phase 1 requirements. We must ensure there have been no new facility-onset cases of COVID in the prior 14 days and 100% of all individuals entering the building are screened for symptoms. Non-essential personnel such as contracted vendors may not enter unless medically necessary or an emergency. Supervised visitations may be scheduled again, communal dining and small group activities may also resume with particular provisions. Staff must also be tested once a week. Notifications will be distributed once these allowances are approved, no visits are currently being scheduled.

Each facility that experience an outbreak receives an infection control survey, DHHS conducted our survey on Thursday. The surveyor observed each department with particular areas of focus and toured the COVID unit. The surveyor provided multiple positive comments and overall was pleased with our response to the COVID outbreak.

Our third vaccination clinic was held on February 16, in total approximately 75% of staff and 90% of residents received the vaccine. Herd immunity occurs "when a significant portion of a population becomes immune to an infectious disease." It is believed 70%-90% of the population require infection or vaccination to reach herd immunity. We are pleased St. Vincent's is within the range of herd immunity but continuing to vaccinate will be vital in keeping future residents and staff healthy. New Hampshire established a program to rapidly vaccinate nursing home residents and staff without a plan for additional vaccinations. We are actively working with Androscoggin Valley Hospital to complete an application to designate vaccinations for our residents and staff. If successful, we will be the first nursing home in New Hampshire to obtain additional vaccines for our population. A special 'thank you' goes to each member of the Androscoggin Valley COVID-19 Community Working Group that assisted in this coordination. This collaborative effort has allowed the AV Community to be at the forefront of the COVID response. Please visit the AV COVID Dashboard each Friday for the most recent update: <https://sites.google.com/sau20.org/av-covid-dashboard/weekly-updates>.

Kindly,

Jeffrey Lacroix
Administrator
St Vincent de Paul Rehab and Nursing
29 Providence Ave
Berlin, NH 03570
(P) 603-752-1820
(F) 603-752-5766

