

St. Vincent de Paul Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

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Families, Friends, residents and staff,

We conducted our weekly surveillance testing on Tuesday and results returned this morning, all were negative! The 7 day positivity rate for Coos County is 4.9% which is wonderful news. The vaccination clinics throughout the North Country have been well attended and individuals who are homebound are being vaccinated through a well-orchestrated community effort. Our pharmacy is working to obtain COVID vaccinations for new residents who are unvaccinated and new employees. While we wait for the pharmacy to finalize these details we are utilizing a pipeline from our community to vaccinate interested residents and staff.

Thank you to each person who participated with the Zoom Family Meeting on Wednesday evening, it was a great opportunity to review and discuss the recently announced changes to our guidelines. CMS and the New Hampshire Department of Public Health announced revisions with new allowances:

- Visits are still scheduled with COVID screening prior to entrance.
- Staff will escort visitors to and from visit location- staff must disinfect area after visit.
- UP to two visitors are permitted per visit.
- With education and proper PPE Compassionate Care Visits are permitted during outbreak, quarantine or if resident has an active COVID infection.
- Residents who are fully vaccinated may choose to have a close contact visit while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after. Close contact should occur for a short period of time with distancing for the rest of the visit. Visitors shall physically distance from other residents and staff.
- Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after receiving the final dose of the COVID vaccine. (Residents who received Bamlanivimab will receive their second dose at the end of April through beginning of May.)
- Indoor visitations may occur at all times, unless:
 - ❖ Unvaccinated residents may not have a social visit if county COVID positivity rate is above 10% **and** less than 70% of residents are not “fully” vaccinated.
 - ❖ Residents with confirmed COVID infection, regardless of vaccination status, until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission based precautions.
 - ❖ Resident in active quarantine, regardless of vaccination status, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

There are many changes but for now the process for visitations remain the same. We are positioned nicely to practice the new state guidance and we will continue to review and enhance our practices and procedures to be aligned for additional changes further down the road. To assist in adhering to infectious control requirements we kindly ask visitors to refrain from leaving the visit site without a staff escort. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Jeffrey Lacroix

Administrator

St Vincent de Paul Rehab and Nursing

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