

St. Vincent de Paul Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

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April 2, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff,

This week we did not conduct routine surveillance testing for COVID-19. Beginning April 6 all qualifying staff will be tested once a month with a PCR test sent to the state lab. During the non-testing weeks staff will be tested for COVID-19 randomly with a rapid antigen test. This frequency of testing will continue when the testing positivity rate is below 5%. When the testing positivity rate for Coos County is 5% we test all eligible staff weekly. As of Thursday, the 7 day testing positivity rate is 4.9%. The rate of *Active COVID-19 Cases per 100k Population* determines the phase of reopening. To enter Phase II, which relaxes restrictions, we must have 11-50 active COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population. The *Active Cases per 100k Population* for Coos County is 193.1 and continues to climb as county cases rise.

Many of you are aware and have personally witnessed the frustrating telecommunication failure we are experiencing. We have multiple telephone lines and we were unaware that they were beginning to fail. Line failure was resulting in people calling into the building with no one answering because the telephone would not ring within the facility for those broken lines. This week all but one telephone line failed and all fax lines failed. Technicians from the phone company have been working desperately to fix the issue, most lines are operational again and technicians continue to work on the problem.

I would like to return to the visitation requirements established and mandated by the federal and state governments. Visits, unless end of life, must be scheduled in advance with prescreening conducted at the time of scheduling. Visitors must remain outside of the facility until escorted into the building, screening will be completed and COVID-19 testing will be requested; testing helps us protect our residents and staff from COVID-19. We request visitors arrive 15 minutes before their scheduled visit so they can be tested without interfering with the visitation timeframe. Visitors who have passed the COVID-19 screening will be escorted to the visiting location by staff. Visitors are not permitted to walk throughout the building without a staff escort. Staff will periodically check-in during the visit for an idea as to when the visit may end and when to escort visitor(s) out of the building. Permitted by CMS, individuals violating mandatory visitation requirements may lose their visitation rights.

We are working with our pharmacy to procure COVID-19 vaccinations for new resident and staff. As of now, the vaccine we have available is the one dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine. We anticipate hosting a clinic monthly and to eliminate vaccination waste we will use an entire vial of vaccine once opened. Each vial contains 6 doses, we do not anticipate always having 6 or 12 people to vaccinate. To ensure we do use all 6 doses without waste we will complete a wait list of family members for residents and staff who would like to receive the vaccine, 18 years and older for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Our residents and staff will be priority and we will then access the waitlist to use all doses per vial. If interested in joining the wait list, please contact the Business Office.

Happy Easter,

Jeffrey Lacroix
Administrator

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