

April 23, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff,

This week's testing included all residents and staff with most results already returned and identified as negative for COVID-19. As mentioned last week, we are in a response phase which means we may continue with small group activities, distanced communal dining and compassionate care visitations. We must wait two weeks before Department of Public Health clears us from response phase, this means all staff will be tested again next Tuesday and we will return to Phase 1 near the end of next week if no new positive cases arise.

After a long winter, residents had begun to enjoy the warmth of the sun on their faces until the premature return of winter. Once the warm weather returns we can return to spending time outdoors. The frigid winds and cool air make the outdoors too uncomfortable.

We would like to extend a gentle reminder that all visits, including compassionate care, must be scheduled in advance. We request individuals participating in an end-of-life compassionate care visit call the floor they intend to visit to make staff aware. Calling ahead allows staff to respond timely, especially in the evening and weekends. While being escorted to the visiting area staff will ask if you would like to speak with a nurse for updates, the nurse will verify if Protected Health Information can be shared. To ensure we maintain State and Federal guidelines please refrain from going to the nurse's station unless it is a medical emergency.

A few reminders: Visitations are 1 hour in length unless end-of life. Masks must be worn at all times during the visit and eating a meal or snack is not allowed during the visit (this removes the mask). Visits must be scheduled in advance with symptom screening, symptom screening will be conducted prior to entry at the time of the visit and visitors must be escorted to and from the visiting area by an employee. Social distancing is still required but a close contact visit may only occur for "limited time" if a resident is fully vaccinated (two weeks past their final COVID-19 vaccine).

Current visitation requirements are a stark difference from days prior to COVID-19 but we are obligated to adhere to all mandates which are often confusing and frustrating. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have questions.

Kindly,

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