St. Vincent de Paul Rehabilitation and Nursing Center 29 Providence Avenue Berlin, NH 03570 T: 603-752-1820 F: 603-752-7149 stvincentrehabcenter.org



May 14, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff,

Happy Nursing Home Week to our residents and staff. We know our residents and families are appreciative of everything each staff member and departments provide. Thank you to all of our staff for your dedication and hard work, it takes a special person to commit to the service of others.

On Thursday the CDC released its most recent mask update. You can resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Masks shall still be worn on public transportation and in medical settings such as Long-term Care establishments. The provided link will bring you to the most recent CDC update: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html

In the last couple letters, we have explained the newest CMS and CDC guidelines and due to their complexity and new families/residents we will continue to provide clarity to these guidelines.

- Visitation: Due to the size of resident rooms, room visits may include up to 2 visitors. Visits in the dining room may include up to 4 visitors and a "reasonable amount" of visitors may congregate outdoors. All visits require social distancing from residents if the resident or any visitor is not fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated is by defined by two weeks after receiving the final COVID vaccine. To practice infection control requirements, we ask visitors please do not visit other residents or leave the resident room without a staff escort during the visit. Please work with Jill in the Business Office so we can best meet your visiting requests.
- Offsite Outings: To comply with CMS requirements at this time we are requesting visitors utilize the visitation schedule for offsite outings, medical trips do not require use of the visitation schedule. We ask each vehicle occupant to come to the facility entry to be screened for COVID prior to the outing.
- **Medical Trips:** To ensure we are maximizing our visits within a manageable extent; medical trips are not included in the scheduled visits. We request families call to inform us if they will provide transportation for the appointment. On the day of the appointment please call when you arrive and we will bring the resident to you. Upon return, at this time we ask visitors refrain from entering the building.
- Masks: Masks must be worn by all residents, staff and visitors while on the premises, including the outdoors. Masks may be removed if the resident and each visitor is fully vaccinated. If a staff member or resident enters the visiting area we kindly request masks be placed on each person so it covers their nose and mouth.
- Close Contact Visit: Close contact (hug, kiss, holding hands) may occur without masks if the resident and each visitor is fully vaccinated. If a staff member or resident enters the visiting area we kindly request masks be placed on each person so it covers their nose and mouth. Fully vaccinated residents may choose to have a close contact visit with a visitor who is not fully vaccinated, the resident must be able to makes the decision. At this time an unvaccinated resident may not have a close contact visit and social distancing is required.

• **Changing Location:** To maintain CMS requirements, at this point we are limited to the number of visits we can effectively manage each day. It is often difficult to anticipate if the weather will be cooperative to spend time outdoors. If you would like to change the setting (resident room to outdoors, dining room or a drive) we request that you call in advance so we are better prepared to meet your request timely. If during an indoor visit you choose to finish your visit outdoors, please request staff assistance to be escorted outdoors.

A visual guide is attached to provide another source of understanding these adjustments. We understand the guidelines remain frustrating and limiting and we will make every attempt to work with each unique situation. Please do not hesitate to call or email, preferred method is email when possible.

Surveillance testing is conducted once a month for unvaccinated employees, the next test will be on Tuesday, June 1.

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

RESIDENT VISITATION GUIDLINES



When not in resident private room or visiting location, masks must be worn at all times in the facility If unvaccinated staff present, masks must be worn by all at all time

Visiting should not take place in a shared room

Visits should not be conducted in an area with other visiting groups

If must have 2 groups visiting in large community room, masks for all, social distancing and no eating If unvaccinated visitor, masks during visit - unless vaccinated resident requests contact and no mask

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