

June 18, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff,

Two weeks ago, the county positivity rate was above 5% which mandated the test for COVID-19 two weeks in a row. As of Thursday, June 17 the county positivity rate is 0.9% with 3 active cases in Coos County. Everyone has done a remarkable job in reducing cases throughout the community, nicely done! As of Friday, we are still waiting for the results of our tests on Tuesday.

We are very pleased to provide an update in regards to our visitation practice. Our average wait time has been ten days and we found ourselves adding numerous visits into fully scheduled days. With the assistance of families, we found ourselves successfully scheduling visits beyond our initial capacity and we are again ready to expand. With this expansion we will be removing the two visit a week limitation! We hope this adjustment makes it easier for families to coordinate your visitations. Visits will begin at 8am with visiting opportunities every 15 minutes until 11am. Visitors may again enter from 1pm until 3:30pm. On the weekends, visits will follow the same schedule but will be scheduled every 30 minutes. As usual, we will make exceptions to meet reasonable accommodations outside of the scheduled visit times. We will maintain this practice for two weeks and review if there are opportunities to improve. Our process will be as follows:

- Visits will be scheduled in advance with initial screening conducted.
- All visitors who enter the St. Vincent's will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
  - For the health of our resident and staff community screening may result with inability to visit.
- Hand hygiene must occur upon entry of St. Vincent's, during the visit as needed and after the visit.
- Appropriate PPE for visitors and residents will be provided by St. Vincent's.
  - Visitors must wear a surgical mask while walking to the resident's room.
  - Visitors who are fully vaccinated may remove their face mask in the resident's room, dining room or outdoors. Please wear facemask when staff enters visiting area.
- Per the CDC, while making your way to a resident's room please socially distance from staff, residents and visitors that are not part of your group. We must stress the importance at this time visitors must continue social distancing with staff, resident and visitors not in your group.
- During the visit, please remain in the visiting area unless:
  - Medical Emergency
  - Transitioning visit outdoors/resident room
  - Exiting building at conclusion of visit
- If a visit is transitioned to the outdoors, please remain socially distanced from other individuals not in your group.
- At the conclusion of your visit while exiting the building, please remain socially distant from staff, residents and visitors that are not part of your group.
- Home Visits with Family- When visiting indoors, opening windows for ventilation is best practice, weather permitting. If you are outdoors and everyone in your small group is vaccinated, you may consider taking off your masks. If unvaccinated individuals are present, everyone should

keep their masks on for the entire visit. We do ask that this physical contact be limited and when there is physical touch, both people should wear a mask, unless the child is under 2 years old and unable to wear a mask.

- We are committed to keeping all residents in our care safe, so depending on the circumstances, or if we feel there has been a potential exposure, we may need to have your loved one quarantine after returning to the building. It is helpful to us to know this in advance so we can plan a smooth transition.

We sponsored 5 students to become LNAs, they have completed their program and will be taking their LNA exams today, we wish them the best of luck. We are also busy planning orientations for 2 other LNAs, 2 Activity staff, a housekeeper and final maintenance assistant. We are happy to bring on the new team members and please give them a warm (socially distant) welcome as you see them in passing during your visits..

Thank you,

*Jeffrey Lacroix*

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