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



August 6, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff,

Testing was conducted on Tuesday for unvaccinated staff with all results returning as negative! Our next round of testing will be on September 7th but we will test sooner if the positivity rate continues to climb for Coos County.

As we continue through this journey unvaccinated, individuals are electing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine which is beneficial to our residents and staff. Studies suggest the Delta variant spreads easier than previous strains of COVID-19 and is affecting the unvaccinated the most. While breakthrough cases are occurring with the vaccinated, the degree of illness is typically not as severe. There have been reports of positive cases popping up in various nursing homes, we continue to practice strict infection control measures as a way to mitigate this threat and we thank you for your assistance.

As summer slowly begins to fade cold and flu season is approaching. We have begun using our rapid test on individuals who exhibit sniffles or other symptoms and tests continue to be negative. COVID-19 exhibits similar symptoms as other common illnesses which makes cold and flu season a challenge. For the health of our residents please reschedule visits if you do not feel well, we will ensure to accommodate this change to your availability. As a friendly reminder, please remember to wear your mask properly when in the building so it covers the mouth and nose.

The visitations are going well and we are grateful for everyone's assistance with them. We have had many cool, wet days this summer which makes scheduling visit locations difficult for individuals who prefer to go outdoors. If you decide to change locations during your visit please feel free to do so while maintaining social distancing from others. If you decide to leave the property for a ride please inform the nursing staff on the floor the resident lives on. We are obligated to account for the location of each resident and in the event of an emergency this can create a significant concern or initiate a resident search.

Please remember, we are obligated to obey the following CDC/CMS requirements:

- Scheduling visits with COVID screening
- Screening prior to entry is mandatory
- Masks worn properly at all times
 - Masks may be removed when all individuals are fully vaccinated and while around people not in your party
- Visitors must socially distance from staff and residents who they have not scheduled a visit with

After monitoring the volume of phone calls and difficulty in managing the schedule we request the following:

- Please avoid changing visit time unless it is necessary
- You do not have to call if you would like to change the visit location (outdoors to indoors)

Please do not hesitate to call or email with questions, concerns or comments.

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