

St. Vincent de Paul Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
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September 24, 2021

Families, friends, residents and staff;

We continue to conduct COVID-19 testing twice a week, one PCR and one rapid test as directed by CMS based on risk of transmission. Our PCR tests from Tuesday were returned with all coming back as negative! Coos County continues to be in the substantial rate of transmission, we are seeing transmission rates higher than at this point last year. Our focus continues to maintain a healthy environment for our resident and staff, we kindly request people postpone their visit if not feeling well or showing cold symptoms. We will ensure your visit is rescheduled to the date and time of your preference.

The last eighteen months have been challenging for a multitude of reasons; from not understanding what COVID is to pandemic fatigue, mandatory restrictions, supply shortages and the staffing shortages hitting every industry. Staffing shortages have caused retail stores, restaurants and gas stations to adjust their hours or close on various days but this is not an opportunity for healthcare providers. We have a remarkable team of staff who are banding together to ensure each resident receives the services they need. This ranges from nursing, housekeeping, dietary, laundry, maintenance, activities, human resources, business office, social services and rehab; this is a spectacular group of people. We are working through challenges in dietary and we are considering implementing a few changes to not overload that department past the breaking point. Jeff Girouard, Dietary Manager, is actively organizing a plan to identify what changes need to be made to ensure we continue with timely services seven days a week without sacrificing quality.

As mentioned, the pandemic has created a ripple effect which includes staffing. The senior leaders within the organization understand the impact and demand for employees and have acted to assist in recruitment. Our wage scale has been adjusted and the starting wage with no experience for positions such as housekeeping, dietary aide, activities assistant is \$13.50 or higher based on experience. We welcome and encourage each of you to share this news within the community as a combined effort to improve recruitment. Recruiting individuals who fit our mission means we can ensure we are providing the services you anticipate and expect.

Lastly, we kindly ask you to have your mask on when leaving a resident room OR when staff enter a room.

Have a nice weekend,

Jeffrey Lacroix NHA, MLA, FACHCA
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