



June 4, 2021

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

The staff 5/31 & 6/3 test results were completed and all test results were negative. This means that in person visitation continues without interruption and the residents enjoyed a second week of not needing surveillance testing.

Although the Governor continues to lift restrictions and pronounce to the general public that he has “reopened” the State, he has not done so in nursing homes and we have to continue to follow more rigid guidelines such as wearing face masks. Last week I highlighted facility updates that we implemented based on the DOH changes that were predicated on recommendations from the CDC and epidemiologists relating to fully vaccinated residents who adhere to the core principles of infection prevention and control (Face Masks, Social Distancing, & Hand Hygiene) as follows:

- Medical Appointments: In most cases, residents who leave the facility for a medical appointment and are gone for <24 hours without contact with someone positive for COVID-19 no longer have to quarantine for 14-days and have increased respiratory monitoring (if quarantine is deemed necessary then that will be communicated to the household & resident accordingly), and the resident can continue with in person visitation
- New Admissions/Re-Admission: The next morning after admission, the resident will have a PCR COVID-19 test completed. Upon receipt of a negative test result, the quarantine can be discontinued for the resident who is fully vaccinated, and in person visitation can begin
- Window Visits: The fully vaccinated resident may have the window open with the screen in place to have a family visit. The visitors should wear a face mask
- Out on Pass: Fully vaccinated residents may be able to go out on pass based on the nature of their visits. Families need to speak with their social worker who will obtain the specifics for review and approval from administration

As highlighted in our last update, household based activity programs restarted on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and it has been so nice to see the residents being able to enjoy some of the more social aspects of community and life in general. In addition, we have continued to get residents outdoors on the enclosed courtyards to enjoy the nicer weather. As a reminder, for each of these activities the residents and staff must maintain proper social distancing and practice the core principles of infection prevention and control.

In addition, Carrie Mendola, our beautician, reopened salon services on 6/2, and the residents are equally excited to have this service back again. For the next 7-10 days Carrie’s focus is following a schedule that will have each household cycle through the salon individually with the only services to be provided being an initial haircut and basic wash/set only. This will enable all the residents to be seen efficiently because the DOH guidelines only permit one resident in the salon at a time and there are additional disinfection and infection control measures that have to be followed between residents.

Further, we have developed a **second visit schedule to allow for outdoor in-person visits** and you will be able to reserve a spot with the reception desk starting Monday, 6/7 at 9am by calling 716-810-7100. This visit schedule will begin on Tuesday 6/8 and is separate from the current in-person visit schedule. This visit is weather dependent—If the weather is inclement for the day & time you scheduled, you will have to postpone the visit and call to reserve a new appointment. These visits will follow an adjusted guideline:

- Enter at Millersport entrance and complete the screening process and have your temperature taken
- After successfully screening, you will be able to take your loved one outside through the Millersport door for an extended outdoor visit (45 minutes in duration) on the grounds and return to the Millersport entrance after visiting
- You will be given some additional face masks and hand sanitizer for use during the visit, and need to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention & control and maintain 6-foot social distancing from any other resident/family

As the weather continues to improve, we are working to finalize a method to allow the resident and yourself to select if you would like your in-person visit indoors or outdoors in one of our courtyards. I will provide the final details in an update next week. Lastly, you may have heard media reports referencing recent legislation enacted this week and signed by the Governor in regards to Personal Caregiving and Compassionate Caregiving Visitors in Nursing Homes. To date, nursing homes have not received any

specific guidance from the DOH but I anticipate it will be forthcoming shortly. We will be working to develop our policy and procedure and will provide you with an update and more details next week. The law provided for an implementation period to allow facilities to prepare accordingly.

As of today, the overall resident vaccination rate remains above 95% and our staff vaccination rate is now 72.5%, and we continue to work with our pharmacy to offer a weekly vaccination clinic on site for new residents and staff. I just want to thank you all again for your patience and ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Rich McCune  
Administrator