

## WEEKLY UPDATE

**March 31, 2021**

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as our weekly update regarding the status of COVID-19 in our facility. Since the onset of this virus, we have had 44 residents and 21 staff members test positive for COVID-19. I am pleased to report that all 44 residents have fully recovered. Last week we had one new employee test positive, I am happy to report that this employee will return to work fully recovered.

The Indiana State Department of Health has issued new guidance for visitation at the facility. The facility will offer visitation 8 hours a day and we continue to expect all visitors continue with the screening process at the point of entry, maintain social distancing, and wear a face mask. Bed bound residents that cannot tolerate being up for an extended period of time can have visits in the resident room.

In light of the Indiana Governor's recent lift of the mask mandate to a mask advisory, please know that this does not apply to nursing home residents. The facility at this time requires face masks for both staff and visitors.

The facility will allow for compassionate care situations as well as scheduled visitation in designated areas. With the nicer weather fast approaching, we will also allow for outdoor visits that could include walking around sidewalks and sitting out in the courtyard. The facility will make every effort to ensure residents and families can obtain a scheduled visit. Independently mobile residents may leave the facility provided they take proper precautions with physical distancing, hand hygiene and mask wearing. Residents can attend medical appointments both routine and preventive outside the facility. Upon return all parties will be screened and decisions made as if quarantine protocol is initiated. The CDC and the Indiana State Department of Health does not recommend changing quarantine requirements or times for vaccinated or unvaccinated residents who have come into close contact with someone who has newly tested positive for COVID-19. Vaccinated persons can still acquire the COVID-19 infection however it does minimize risks. For our elderly population caution still needs to be maintained.

**Please note:** any resident who spent a total of more than 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period closer than 6 feet without the use of a mask must be quarantined for up to 14-days. **Visitation will cease if the facility experiences a new onset of COVID-19 or the community positivity rate is greater than 10%. If a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 outbreak testing must occur and no new cases identified from the outbreak testing before visitation can resume.**

When sending residents items from outside sources i.e.; Amazon, Groceries to go, Door Dash, Grub Hub etc. Please label with the residents' name that it is being sent for, often times these are being delivered at the facility with the name of the person placing the order rather than the resident making it difficult getting it to the designated person.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at 574-406-6600

Sincerely,

*Marti Carmean*

Administrator