

## WEEKLY UPDATE

10/15/2020

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 34 residents and 28 staff members test positive for COVID-19. Fairfield has completed 14 weeks of weekly testing for the employees without any new cases. We have not had any new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 151 days.

As you know, we have been preparing to safely allow visitors at our facility and we are so excited for you to see your loved ones. As we previously reported, there are many factors that determine when a facility can open up for visitors, up to and including our county's COVID-19 positivity rate, residents' health status, or if there is a COVID outbreak in the facility.

We will continue to provide you and our residents the opportunity for routine outdoor visitation that adheres to the Core Principles in a designated, accessible and safe out-door space that allows for privacy between you and the resident. Please see the Core Principles of COVID-19 below:

### Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- 1) The facility will ensure core principles of COVID-19 infection preventions to include:
  - a) Screening of all visitors when entering the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 to include temperature checks. Any visitor with signs or symptoms will be denied entry to the facility.
  - b) Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub on entry and throughout visit when appropriate)
  - c) Face coverings or mask that covers the mouth and nose
  - d) Social distancing at all times during the visit of at least six feet apart
  - e) Instructional signage throughout the facility and visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, use of face coverings/mask, specific entry and exits, routes to take during visitation, and hand hygiene
  - f) Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces and designated visitation area after each visit
  - g) Facility staff use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - h) Facility must have designated areas for cohorting residents (quarantine, step-down, and COVID unit)
  - i) Resident and staff testing per CMS regulation

We have created an indoor visitation plan that will allow you to visit your loved ones indoors, when there is inclement weather or compassionate care situations. The indoor visitation guidelines are as follows:

- a) The facility may not have any new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and cannot be conducting outbreak testing.
- b) The facility will ensure that visitors adhere to core principles to include children.
- c) The facility will limit the number of visitors per resident and the number of visitors allowed in the facility at one time based on the size of the facility.
- d) The facility will schedule visits with time limits to allow all residents to receive visitors.
- e) The facility will limit movement of visitors; to include direct routes to designated visitation area.
- f) The facility will not conduct visitation in shared rooms unless the resident cannot leave the room due to health status. In that event the facility will ensure adherence to core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.
- g) The facility will monitor their county positivity rate as additional information to determine indoor visitation. The facilities that are in low (<5%) and medium (5%-10%) should conduct visitation according to the core principles

of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies beyond compassionate care visits. Those facilities that are in high (>10%) should only conduct for compassionate care situations according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies.

- h) The facility may monitor other factors that increase COVID-19 risk levels to include: rates of COVID-19 like illnesses, visits to the emergency department, or positivity rate of a county adjacent to the county where the nursing home is located.

As always, we are working hard to keep everyone in our community safe and we will continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility and we screen them for signs and symptoms of illness prior to entering. Our residents are continually monitored and staff is using PPE as recommended by the CDC. Staff is frequently reminded and encouraged to practice social distancing and to use hand sanitizer and frequently wash their hands when they are in the facility and out in the community. We ask them not to report to work if they have symptoms of illness.

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 (410) 923-6820.

Sincerely,

*Charles Woodberry, MS., LNHA*

Charles Woodberry  
Administrator