

## WEEKLY UPDATE AND NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASE

11/24/2021

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as our weekly update regarding the status of COVID-19 in our facility.

**Please note that we will no longer be posting weekly updates on our website unless the facility is in an outbreak.** We will, however, continue to notify you through our website of any changes in visitation procedures and if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility. We will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

### Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Currently in the Facility

Staff: 2

Residents: 10

**Date of Last Newly Confirmed COVID-19 Case:** 11/12/2021 (staff)

### Visitation Status:

Fairfield has completed our fifth round of staff and resident testing and we did not have any residents or staff test positive for Covid-19. This letter is to inform you that the Anne Arundel County Department of Health has concluded the investigation initiated with Fairfield Nursing and Rehab Center on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in response to a COVID-19 outbreak at Fairfield. Please see guidance on visitation below:

The Facility's staff will honor the patient and resident right to have personal visitation according to CMS's visitation guidance, which is copied attached. The Facility will implement measures to ensure patient, resident, staff and visitor safety during the visitation time. The facility will notify visitors and residents of the potential risk for exposure to COVID-19 in the facility.

As standard practice the facility staff, patients, residents, families and visitors are encouraged to review and sign the facility's Infection Prevention Pledge as a commitment to comply with infection control practices. Families and visitors refusing to comply with the basic requirements and adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection will not be able to enter the facility. Virtual visits may be arranged. The facility will adhere to the CMS regulations and guidance for COVID-19 testing including routine staff testing, testing of individuals with symptoms, and outbreak testing.

### Facility Safety Precautions:

We 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.

Thank you for your support throughout this pandemic, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at (410) 923-6820.

Sincerely,

*Charles Woodberry, MS., LNHA*

Charles Woodberry, MS., LNHA  
Administrator

## **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, questions about and observations of signs and symptoms. Any visitor with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days will be denied entry to the facility regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.
  - B. Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub on entry and throughout visit when appropriate) The use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred.
  - 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, in accordance with the CDC guidance.
  - 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.
2. The facility will adhere to the above core principles at all times.
3. The facility will conduct visitation that is person-centered and considers resident's physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being and quality of life.
4. The facility will conduct visitation that allows residents to privacy during visits.
5. The facility will not allow visitors to enter who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention or will be asked to leave.
6. Facility staff will provide each visitor with the COVID-19 Visitor Waiver and Release for execution and will keep a copy in the resident's file. Upon request, Facility staff will provide a copy of the executed release to the visitor.

## **Outdoor Visitation-preferred**

1. Outdoor visitation is preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
2. The facility will conduct outdoor visitation routinely that takes a person-centered approach and adheres to the core principles.
3. The facility will conduct all visitation outdoors when possible as it generally poses a lower risk of transmission.
4. The facility will consider weather, (inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality) resident health status, (medical condition, COVID status, quarantine status) or facility outbreak status prior to visitation.
5. The facility will designate an accessible and safe outdoor space for visitation (courtyard, patios, or parking lots with the use of tents when available)
6. The facility will limit the number of total visits allowed at one time and size of visits per resident to allow for safe visitation.
7. The facility will adhere to all appropriate infection control and prevention practices during outdoor visitation.

## **Indoor Visitation**

1. The facility will allow indoor visitation at all times for all residents regardless of their vaccination status.
2. The facility will ensure the staff, residents, and visitors adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection, including physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals.
3. The facility will avoid large gatherings where a large number of visitors are in the same place at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained.
4. The facility may contact their local health department for guidance or directions on how to structure their visitation to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
5. The facility will allow residents, if they choose to have close contact including touch with their visitor regardless of vaccination status. The facility will advise the resident and their visitor of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit. The facility does not recommend any facial interactions, i.e. kissing between residents and visitors.
6. The facility will ensure that visitors physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.
7. The facility will limit the visitor's movement in the facility. The visitor will be directed to the resident's room or the designated visitation area. If the resident being visited has a roommate the visit will be conducted elsewhere if possible. If the resident's health status prevents them from being able to leave the room, the facility will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.
8. The facility will allow visitation for residents on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine. The visits will occur in the resident's room and the resident will wear a well-fitting facemask, if tolerated. The facility will advise the visitor prior to visitation the potential risks and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident to include appropriate PPE. The visitor must adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.

9. **The facility will not allow visitation on an active COVID unit unless for compassionate care/end-of-life visits. The facility will ensure core principles of infection prevention are maintained and appropriate PPE is worn.**

### **Indoor Visitation During and Outbreak**

1. The facility will have indoor visitation even during an outbreak investigation.
2. The facility will immediately begin outbreak testing according to CMS regulations and facility policy.
3. The facility will advise visitors of the potential risks of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. The resident and visitor will wear appropriate PPE during the visit and visit should occur in the resident's room if possible.
4. The facility will continue all necessary rounds of outbreak testing.
5. The facility will adhere to infection prevention and control practices while indoor visitation occurs.
6. The facility will consult with their state or local health departments during an outbreak to ensure adherence to infection control precautions, and for recommendations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during visitation.