

## **WEEKLY UPDATE / CHANGE IN VISITATION STATUS**

**8/5/2021**

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

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

**Please note that beginning August 1, 2021 we will no longer be posting weekly updates on our website.** 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: 1

Residents: 0

### **Date of Last Newly Confirmed COVID-19 Case:**

7/27/2021

### **Visitation Status:**

Fairfield has conducted our first round of outbreak testing and are happy to report that we did not identify any new positive cases of Covid-19 and the outbreak has been contained. Visitors are allowed on the un affected units/floors. For the unit that was affected, exceptions will be made for compassionate care situations only. Please see guidance on indoor visitation during an outbreak below:

### **Indoor Visitation During an Outbreak**

1. The facility may still have indoor visitation even during an outbreak if there is evidence that the transmission of COVID-19 is contained to a single area of the facility.
2. The facility will immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation except that required under federal disability rights law when a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified. After at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed visitation may resume based on the following:
  - A. If the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas of the facility then visitation may resume for residents in areas with no COVID-19 cases. The facility will continue to suspend visitation on the affected unit until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
  - B. If the first round of outbreak testing reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases in individuals in other areas or units of the facility, the facility will suspend visitation for all (vaccinated or unvaccinated) resident until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.

3. The facility will continue all necessary rounds of outbreak testing.
4. The facility will adhere to infection prevention and control practices while indoor visitation during an outbreak.
5. 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.

### **Compassionate Care Visits**

1. The facility's definition of compassionate care visits to include:
  - A. Resident who was living with their family before recently being admitted to the facility, and struggling with the changes in environment and lack of physical family support.
  - B. Resident grieving after a friend or family member recently passed away.
  - C. Resident that needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family and/or caregiver, is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
  - D. Resident that used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently with history.
2. The facility will allow visitation to the above situations that is consistent with compassionate care visitation and policy to include visitors or clergy or individuals offering religious and spiritual support.
3. The facility may also identify other situations of compassionate care and allow visitation per policy.
4. The facility will allow compassionate care visits and visits required under federal disability rights law at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.
5. The facility will conduct compassionate care visits using social distancing. If during a visit the visitor and facility identify a way to allow personal contact it should only be done following all appropriate infection prevention guidelines and with a limited amount of time.
6. The facility will allow residents that are fully vaccinated choose to have close contact with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after.
7. The facility will ensure that visitors physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.
8. The facility will communicate with resident, families, caregivers, resident representative, and the Ombudsman to identify the need for compassionate care visits.

### **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*

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Administrator