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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Family-Guardian Communication

...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team-7/8/2022

In our effort to maintain open and honest communication, we will continue to send you updates about all Respiratory Viral Outbreaks and the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We hope you find this information helpful.

Resident Update

A few additional Residents were confirmed with the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus (R-E). The viruses are common, circulate in the community and can cause a variety of respiratory symptoms such as fever, runny nose, and cough. The gastrointestinal system can sometimes be effected causing vomiting and diarrhea. The best ways to help stop the spread of the viruses include staying home if you are not feeling well, frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and avoiding close contact with people who are sick. We remain in an outbreak status R-E. There are no new cases of Parainfluenza or Adenovirus. We anticipate the outbreaks for both to be declared over by the NJ Department of Health (DOH). One Resident has tested positive for COVID-19 that was cared for by a Staff Member testing positive. The Resident is well, showing no signs or symptoms of illness. We remain in an outbreak status for COVID-19.

Staff Update

Six Staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. Five remain home on quarantine. Nursing has contacted our Resident's Family-Guardian if their child was effected by this.

Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing

Due to recent updated guidance from the NJ DOH we are testing Staff Members two times per week who are not up to date with the recommended schedule of COVID-19 vaccination. We continue with a "contact tracing" testing approach for Residents and Staff if they have had a high risk exposure to COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.

Visitation

We have returned to open access in room visitation for all Resident Family-Guardians. Appointments are not needed and visits take place in the Resident's Room following strict infection prevention and control practices. Our Visitation Guidelines are available at Front Desk Reception. We offer rapid COVID-19 testing prior to visitation and ask if you are not feeling well or have been exposed to COVID-19 to please delay your visit. We also offer video visitation for our Families upon request. Please contact Social Work or a Nursing Supervisor for more information.

Continued over

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COVID-19 Vaccine

This week the FDA has issued an Emergency Use Authorization for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to the age 5 and under age group. We will be contacting our Resident's Family-Guardians of this age group to discuss administering the vaccine. We continue to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to all eligible Residents and will provide the vaccine with Family-Guardian permission. **Although the vaccine is not mandatory to receive for our Residents and Family-Guardians, it is highly recommended for all individuals to prevent the spread of COVID-19.** The vaccine is readily available at various sites in the community for all NJ Residents. A NJ State toll free Hotline can be contacted at 855-568-0545 to assist you with general questions about the vaccines, eligibility and location of vaccination sites or you can visit the NJ Hub Website: covid-19.nj.gov. **We highly encourage ALL to receive the vaccine and recommended boosters!** It is now mandatory for all eligible NJ Health Care Workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and booster series. We are currently reviewing the new guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and The NJ DOH about the new definitions of **up to date** vaccinated individuals and the recommendation for an additional booster for our Staff age 50 and older. This will effect testing and quarantine requirements. We will provide an update about our plan when finalized.

Our Commitment

Resident and Staff wellness and safety is our top priority. Please be reassured we continue to follow all core standards of Infection Prevention and Control measures partnering with the NJ DOH to maintain wellness. Throughout the pandemic, our team has worked tirelessly to remain up to date on all current COVID-19 data and recommendations from science and medical experts to make the best decisions for our Residents, Families, Staff and Community. **Prior to the Federal and State mandate for Staff working in Long Term Care Facilities to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine, we decided to require that all of our Staff be fully vaccinated. We feel this is our responsibility to our community and a necessary step in ending this pandemic. We also had an unannounced visit from the NJ Department of Health on 6/15 to review our Infection Prevention and Control practices, standards of care. We are happy to report that no deficient practices were identified and we are in full compliance with all Federal and State Regulations and standards of care.**

Our Appreciation

A heartfelt thank you to our Residents, Family-Guardians and Community Care Partners for their continued patience, support and trust in us.

Important Communication Updates

Our automated Family-Guardian notification system is in place that is linked to our Electronic Medical Record. We are sending all medical appointments, facility outings and urgent messages including updates about COVID-19 from our automated system to Family-Guardian cell phones or landlines. Other notifications we typically mail may be sent by email if you have an email address. We will continue to mail information for those without an email address. We will continue to mail all Resident Family-Guardians important updates as needed. Our Weekly COVID-19 Update is available on our website for review.

We encourage our Residents and Family-Guardians to receive a yearly flu vaccine to help keep us well especially during the COVID-19 PANDEMIC. The State of NJ requires all individuals employed in any NJ healthcare facility receive a yearly flu vaccine unless they have a medical exemption from a healthcare provider. We have provided the vaccine to all eligible Staff and Residents with Family-Guardian permission.

We recently had an unannounced survey by The Joint Commission for our three year reaccreditation. We are happy to report overall the survey went really well and we anticipate receiving our reaccreditation.

Be well.