



1304 Laurel Oak Rd
Voorhees, NJ 08043

P: 856.346.3300

F: 856.435.4223

Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

Weekly Family-Guardian Communication

...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team – 5/14/2021

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

Resident Update

One Resident has tested positive for COVID-19 via our weekly outbreak testing. The Resident is well, not showing any signs or symptoms of illness. Following our Outbreak Plan, our Resident was transferred to the Hospital as a precaution for close monitoring. Contact tracing could not determine the source of the exposure. Families have been contacted directly if their child has been impacted by this.

Staff Update

All of our Staff Members are well. All who previously tested COVID-19 positive have returned to work.

Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing

Following The NJ Department of Health (DOH) guidance, Resident outbreak testing continues one time per week due to our positive Resident case. Routine Staff testing is once per week since there is a steady decrease in the rate of the virus in the community. All Staff has tested negative during our weekly testing. This will continue until further direction from The NJ DOH. We continue to be in an outbreak status with The NJ DOH.

Visitation

Family-Guardian indoor visitation per NJ DOH Executive Directive 20-025 specific to Pediatric and Residents of Adult Long Term Care Facilities with Developmental Disabilities is delayed. We must be COVID-19 free for 28 days and no longer conducting outbreak testing (details explained in Phased Reopening section). Staffed Outdoor Compassionate Care Visitation for our Families is available for May by appointment on. Many appointments are available. We have mailed information about the details to all of Families. Please contact your VPF Social Worker for more information and to schedule an outdoor visit. Video Visitation continues to be available via Skype, Zoom or FaceTime. We encourage you to contact your VPF Social Worker to help arrange this.

Continued over

Member of National Association of
Children's Hospitals & Related Institutions

Phased Reopening

The NJ DOH issued Executive Directive No. 20-026 establishing mandatory procedures that Long Term Care facilities must have in place in order to safely reopen to ALL visitors and resume normal operations. This includes Family visitation. The Directive follows mandates from the Center of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and guidance from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the NJ State Reopening Plan. It is based on the following: the rate of community transmission of COVID-19, a Facility's outbreak status and ability to test Staff/Residents, maintain core Infection Prevention and Control Practices, have adequate Staffing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). When facilities are COVID-19 free AND no longer outbreak testing, facilities may restore services in phases such as indoor visitation for Resident Family-Guardians. Strict guidelines must be followed in all phases outlined in the Directive to ensure a safe reopening. Since we are conducting Resident outbreak testing and have a positive Resident case this type of Family-Guardian indoor visitation is delayed until further notice. There are exceptions to indoor visitation defined in this Directive. The following exception, special circumstance indoor visitation is permitted following strict infection control guidelines and is defined as "Compassionate Care Visitation". This type of visitation is available for **ALL** of our Families by appointment on a limited basis. We are sensitive to the extreme duress and stress the separation has caused our Residents, who are children, and to their Families. Please contact your VPF Social Worker for more information about visitation. CMS continues to issue new guidance and The NJ DOH continues to update various Directives and Regulations concerning visitation and vaccination specific to Long Term Care Facilities. A majority of the information concerns vaccinated Residents and does not apply to our Pediatric Resident population as 50% are not eligible to receive the vaccine at this time. We will notify you as soon as any change is permitted by the NJ DOH. We will continue with our Compassionate Care Visitation Program for indoor and outdoor visitation. We thank you for your support and understanding. We respect and appreciate how difficult this is for our Families.

COVID-19 Vaccine

The Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine has just been authorized for teens 12-15 years old. This is the vaccine we have previously partnered with Walgreens to administer to our Residents and Staff. We will be contacting our Families of all of our Residents in this age group to discuss administering the vaccine. We will also continue to offer the vaccine to all of our eligible Residents. We are happy to report that 70% of our Staff are vaccinated and 32 of our Residents (Age 17 and older) are vaccinated. Although the vaccine is not mandatory to receive 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: covid19.nj.gov. We highly encourage all of our Staff, Residents and Family-Guardians to receive the vaccine. If you or any of your family members that visit VPF have received the vaccine, please provide a copy a copy of your vaccine card to your VPF Social Worker for our records.

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. Our commitment is verified again during another unannounced visit, an Infection Prevention and Control focused Survey on 11/13 by the NJ DOH. We are happy to report that we are in full compliance with all of the federal and state rules, guidelines and standards of care specific to Infection Prevention and Control.

Our Appreciation

The strength and courage our Family-Guardians continue to demonstrate as we all work through this pandemic is heroic. A heartfelt thank you for your continued patience, support and trust in us. We respect and appreciate our partnership with you.

Important Reminder

We encourage our Family-Guardians to receive a yearly flu vaccine to help keep us all well especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not too late! 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. All of our eligible Staff and Residents have received the flu vaccine. Be well.