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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

***Weekly Resident Family-Guardian Communication
...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 4/19/2024***

Resident Update

Several more of our Residents have tested positive for the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus. Nursing has contacted our Resident Family-Guardians directly if their child is effected by this. Our Residents previously testing positive have recovered. Our outbreak status continues. Visitation is allowed for all Residents but please be aware of your risk of exposure to the viruses. The Rhinovirus and Enterovirus (R-E) are common transmissible viruses that circulate in the community that can cause a variety of respiratory and GI illnesses. Symptoms may include fever, runny nose, cough, wheezing, loose stools and vomiting that can last 7-10 days. The best prevention to contain the spread of the viruses is washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, avoiding close contact with people who are sick and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. We kindly ask that you delay your visit if you are not feeling well. Be reassured we continue to follow all necessary infection prevention and control measures.

Staff Update

Our Staff are well.

Outbreak and Mask Update

Our last confirmed Resident testing positive for the R-E Viruses was on 4/17. This outbreak will be declared over after 12 days of no new cases. Since several respiratory viruses remain present in the community, we continue to require all Visitors and Staff to wear a clean well-fitting surgical mask at all times while on our campus. Masks may be removed in our Café during meal time.

Resident/Staff COVID-19 Testing

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. COVID-19 testing continues to be offered to all of our Family-Guardians and Community Care Partners at check-up but is not mandatory. All other visitors are required by The NJ Department of Health (DOH) to be tested upon check-in.

Visitation

We have open access visitation in a Resident's room, limited to two visitors at a time due to space limitations. We must continue to follow Federal and State Regulations requiring best practice of infection prevention and control. Our Families trained by Staff to care for their child without Staff supervision may visit with their child in our Family Room, Serenity Garden or Playground. Surgical masks are available at check-in and we offer rapid COVID-19 testing prior to visitation. All visitors are required to complete a health screening and temperature check at sign-in. We kindly request if you are not feeling well, have COVID-19 or have been exposed by a close personal contact with COVID-19 or to any illness to please delay your visit. It is best to check in at the Nursing Station prior to entering a Resident's room for the latest update. We offer video visitation on a limited basis for our Families upon request. Please contact Social Work for more information.

continued over

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COVID-19 Vaccine

To best protect our Residents, we continue to offer the COVID-19 vaccine series to all of our eligible Residents age 6 months and older and administer the vaccine with Family-Guardian permission. The vaccines are safe and highly effective and work to prevent the spread of the virus, severe illness, hospitalizations and death. We highly recommend and encourage our Residents and Families to receive the vaccine series. The vaccines are readily available at various sites in the community for all NJ Residents. A toll free Hotline can be contacted at 1-800-962-1253 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](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid-19).

New Jersey Department of Health Executive Directive for Long Term Care Facilities

Although NJ Governor Murphy declared the pandemic State of Emergency and Public Health State of Emergency over in March 2023, Executive Directive 21-012 implemented by The NJ DOH during the pandemic remains in effect for all NJ DOH licensed Long Term Care Facilities. VPF remains in full compliance with this Directive that serves to safeguard the well-being of facility Residents, Visitors and Staff.

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 team has works 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.

Our Appreciation

A heartfelt thank you to our Residents, Family-Guardians and Community Care Partners for their continued patience, support and trust in us. We are thankful for our partnership to help keep us in the best of health.

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.

FLU VACCINE

We encourage our Residents and Family-Guardians to receive a yearly flu vaccine to help keep us well. We provide the vaccine to all of our Residents with Family-Guardian permission. 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 offer and provide the vaccine to all of our eligible Staff.

Be well.