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Providing Specialized Nursing  
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

***Weekly Resident Family-Guardian Communication  
...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 1/24/2025***

**Resident Update**

We have a few new cases of the GI virus with symptoms of loose stools and vomiting. Our GI viral outbreak continues. Most of our Residents have recovered. We have not had any new cases of the Human Coronavirus OC43. This is a common type of a respiratory virus that spreads by coughing or sneezing and can cause symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and headache. The NJ Department of Health has declared this an outbreak. Frequent hand washing with soap and water, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands and disinfecting high touch surfaces help contain the spread of these types of viruses. Most of our Residents with respiratory viral symptoms are recovering, returning to their typical state of health.

**Staff Update**

A few additional Staff Members have reported signs and symptoms of a GI and Respiratory Viral type of illness.

**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 visitors at check-up but is not mandatory.

**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 and guidance requiring best practice of infection prevention and control. Our Families trained at VPF to care for their child without Staff supervision may visit with their child in our Family Room, Serenity Garden or Playground. Surgical masks are no longer required to wear however remain available at check-in along with rapid COVID-19 testing prior to visitation. All visitors are requested to complete a health screening 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. Please contact Social Work for more information.

**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/hhs/covid-19/).

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### **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 focusing on infection prevention and control.

### **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 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 via our automated system to our Resident Family-Guardian cell phones, landlines or email. We will continue to mail information for those without an email address. Our Weekly Update is available on our website for review and in our lobby along with important infection control and prevention information for all visitors.

### **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.**