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Providing Specialized Nursing
& Advanced Pulmonary Care

***Weekly Resident Family-Guardian Communication
...from the Interdisciplinary Care Team 3/7/2025***

Resident Update

A few additional Residents have tested positive for the Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV). This is a common respiratory virus that can cause cough, fever, nasal congestion and/or wheezing. Nursing has contacted our Resident Family-Guardians directly if their child is effected by this. Our outbreak continues. Since we have not had any new cases of Flu A our outbreak status has been declared over. The best prevention to stop the spread of these types of common viruses circulating in the community is frequent hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds, covering mouth and nose if cough or sneeze, refrain from touching nose, eyes or mouth, disinfect commonly touched surfaces and avoid people that are ill. Until further notice, a clean well-fitting surgical mask covering your nose and mouth is required at all times on campus. Masks may be removed during meal times in our Cafe only. This measure is necessary to best protect our Residents, Families and Staff. Surgical Masks remain available at Front Desk Reception. In addition, we are separating the Residents by Wing for all activities, therapy and school. Visitation is allowed for all Residents. If visit, please understand you have a risk of exposure to highly transmissible respiratory viruses even though you may be vaccinated, wear a mask, maintain social distancing and have proper hand hygiene. Be reassured we continue to follow all necessary infection prevention and control measures. We kindly ask that you delay your visit if you are not feeling well or have had a direct exposure to someone that is ill.

Staff Update

We have one reported case of a direct care Staff Member testing positive for COVID-19 and is home in isolation. Nursing has contacted our Resident Family-Guardians if their child was impacted by this. There are no other reported Staff illnesses.

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.

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

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/hud/njhubsite/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 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.