



January 12, 2023

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

I want to provide a brief COVID update for everyone at this time. The three (3) residents from our rehab unit who tested positive for Covid and were reported on the 1/9 update are all progressing and only have minor symptoms as they continue with their quarantine period. However, we received notice from a family member of a resident on our hospice unit that they had tested positive and had been in to visit their loved one the few days before. We tested the resident who had very minor symptoms but the test result was positive for Covid. Upon completion of contact tracing, it was determined that no other residents were potentially exposed to this resident and/or their family member so we did not need to test other residents on this unit. However, we did complete surveillance testing of the staff and all were negative. In addition, we were completing follow-up surveillance testing on the rehab unit and had one (1) new positive Covid resident case. Both residents were relocated to our Covid unit to complete their quarantine period. All of the residents and family members of the effected unit(s) were updated directly and we will complete follow-up surveillance testing per DOH guidelines.

Of the five (5) residents on the Covid unit—one (1) remains symptom free and the other four (4) have only minor symptoms. We anticipate that all will recover completely and be able to return to their unit(s) next week after completion of their quarantine period(s). In addition, we received notice that another staff member had tested positive for Covid at home. This staff person had not recently worked with residents and thus this did not cause any potential exposure. The environmental services team continues with increased sanitation and disinfection routines as part of our overall facility protocol to prevent infection(s).

Please remember that the facility visitation guidelines are available at the screening tables and on our website, and have been streamlined into a reference sheet for ease of use. Face masks (source control) and social distancing remain NY State requirements, and we respectfully ask all to comply while visiting your loved ones. I want to emphasize the importance of adhering to these guidelines. Recent DOH and CDC updates have identified the current variant of the Covid virus as XBB.1.5, and it has been determined to be five (5) times as contagious as any previous form of the virus. This current variant is the most transmissible form of Covid to date, but fortunately it is not as deadly and most people who have been vaccinated experience only mild symptoms at most. In addition, we have two (2) effective antiviral treatment options which have also been effective in treating the virus and assisting positive individuals with a speedy recovery.

The facility has a good supply of at-home test kits available for visitors as needed, and just request at the reception/screening tables. Again, I understand the frustrations with the continued protocols that have to be followed in nursing homes unlike any other public location in our State, but ask for your compliance as we know the current variant is highly transmissible and the overall infection rates are climbing in WNY. Therefore, it is important for all of us to remain vigilant in following the infection control precautions in place—utilization of the facility-provided surgical masks, maintaining proper social distance throughout your visit, and having proof of your negative test result. It is important for all of us to remain diligent with following these guidelines. In addition, if you are feeling sick or have any symptom associated with COVID then please stay home and do not come to the facility.

If you have any questions then, please call your social worker, Cathy Davis (RN Director of Nursing), or myself. Thanks again for all that you do to keep our residents safe.

Best wishes,

Rich McCune
Administrator