



January 13, 2023

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

I want to provide a brief COVID update for everyone at this time. The five (5) residents on the Covid unit remain stable and are recovering. This morning we had a rehab resident (admitted on 1/11) retest for the virus and tested positive for Covid. We relocated this resident to the Covid unit for the completion of the required quarantine period. We did complete surveillance testing of all the staff and residents on the rehab household and all remaining were negative. In addition, we were notified that two (2) direct care workers had tested positive at home earlier today. One had worked on the rehab unit recently and the other had worked on a LTC unit. We did also complete surveillance testing of that LTC household and all residents were negative. All of the residents and family members of the effected households were updated directly concerning the current cases and testing results.

Upon review of all the six (6) Covid positive residents it is important to note that two (2) of the cases were due to family members that had recently visited but informed us they were positive for Covid. The remaining four (4) residents were all short term rehab residents who had been at the facility for ten (10) days or less. The remaining residents on the rehab unit have been tested multiple times this week and all remain negative. Review of our contact tracing identified that all but one (1) of the residents had no contact/exposure with the Covid positive residents, and the one potential contact was from the first reported cases on 1/8 that were linked to family members visiting just prior. Further, two (2) of the residents remain symptom free and the remaining four (4) have only minor symptoms, but all have clear lungs and no significant respiratory concerns and we look forward to their recovery next week.

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