



ATTENTION: VILLAS RESIDENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND TEAM MEMBERS

IMPORTANT – 12/31/2020 COVID-19 UPDATE – *please read this in its entirety.*

In accordance with shared recommendations for the Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and others, we are required to notify you each time there is a change or development in our Covid-19 status, including new cases among residents and/or team members. We are also required to notify you if we admit a resident with a Covid-19 diagnosis even if they have met the criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions.

We continue to administer ongoing Covid-19 testing of all residents every 3-5 days. In addition, we are testing residents who present symptoms consistent with Covid-19. We are also performing widespread testing of all team members twice per week and it will be administered at various times throughout the week going forward as compared to specified days. Team members who present with symptoms consistent with Covid-19 are taken off the schedule and advised to consult with their clinician.

Since yesterday, we received notification that five new team members have tested positive for Covid-19.

Since this outbreak began on November 12, 2020 we have had a total of 42 residents and 44 team members at the Villas test positive for Covid-19. We have also had six third party health care workers who provide services to our residents test positive for Covid-19. Furthermore, we have admitted two residents who have tested positive and had met the criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions upon admission and one resident from elsewhere on campus who tested positive.

Any resident that tests positive and remains in our care would be moved to our designated “Red Zone” neighborhood, Orchards A. Here, residents receive proper care until they meet criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions as defined by CMS and PA DOH.

All other resident neighborhoods continue to follow “Yellow Zone” protocols, a measure required to be taken when a potential exposure exists.

One of our strategies to control the spread of COVID-19 has been the temporary suspension of tub baths and showers instead providing bed baths, until we saw a decline in the number of cases here in the Villas. While we understand this strategy is not optimal; during our recent outbreak, our goal was to minimize use of any shared space with the belief that the benefits outweighed the risks of possible transmission of COVID-19.

This decision was made in consultation with our Regional Response Health Collaboration Program (RRHCP), a consulting program made available to long-term care facilities across the state through the PA Department of Health. We continue to evaluate this situation regularly and are hopeful that beginning next week, we can resume providing tub baths on a limited basis. We are in the process of providing enhanced staff education to ensure we can resume services as safely as possible.

In an abundance of caution going forward, should there be a positive resident case identified on a neighborhood, we would again suspend scheduled baths just within that neighborhood to limit viral spread. Please understand these types of care decisions are never made lightly and are given our utmost attention.

We continue to be vigilant as a community and a team in our efforts to minimize the spread of Covid-19 considering the data indicating a high positivity rate of more than 1-in-5 people in our region testing positive for Covid-19. Please review our website for further information regarding procedures already in place due to positive Covid-19 cases.

Please keep those impacted by Covid-19 in your thoughts and prayers. If you have any questions regarding this communication or St Paul's plan of action please contact Tammy Lininger, Administrator at the Villas or Leann McCurdy, Director of Nursing at the Villas.