



**ATTENTION: VILLAS RESIDENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND TEAM MEMBERS**

**IMPORTANT – 10/8/2021 COVID-19 UPDATE** – *please read this in its entirety.*

In accordance with shared recommendations for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) 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 have been notified that one of our team members has tested positive for Covid-19.

We continue to follow new guidance recently released for long-term care facilities by the CDC, CMS and PADOH which aligns more closely with the guidance for people in the community. These guidelines allow us to use contact tracing to identify exposed residents, staff and visitors or use a broader neighborhood-based approach or facility-wide approach depending on the unique circumstances of each case.

In this case, the following areas have been identified:

- **GARDENS A (ALL RESIDENTS)**
- **GARDENS B (SELECT RESIDENTS). These residents and their responsible party will be personally notified.**
- **WILLOWS B (SELECT RESIDENTS). These residents and their responsible party will be personally notified.**

As per the updated guidance, the following actions will be **taken for any residents identified above:**

- Any resident regardless of vaccination status, identified as a close contact is tested immediately (but not earlier than 2 days after exposure) and if negative, again 5-7 days after the exposure.
- Any staff identified as a close contact or higher risk exposure will be tested immediately (but not earlier than 2 days after exposure) and if negative, again at 5-7 days after exposure.
- **For fully vaccinated residents, they do NOT need to quarantine; however, they should wear masks at all times while around others. Visitation is not suspended for fully vaccinated residents; however, visitors must be aware that the risk of exposure**

to COVID 19 is greater during periods in which there are known cases within the building and should they have concerns about these risks, they may want to consider whether it is appropriate to visit at this time.

- Any resident who is NOT fully vaccinated must quarantine for 14 days. Visitation IS suspended and limited to virtual or window visits only. In-person visits are limited to only end-of-life or compassion care situations. Residents potentially exposed who are not fully vaccinated are considered in a **YELLOW zone** and **full PPE must be worn during care/visitation.**
- We will notify everyone of test results as they become available.
- We are taking a cautious stance to pause communal dining for those who are impacted. Meals will be delivered via tray service and further action will be determined based on the results of testing.

In addition, we are also required to notify you that one resident was recently admitted after they met criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions.

We will continue to perform other routine testing of team members as per PADOH and CMS guidance. In addition, any team members who present with symptoms consistent with Covid-19 will continue to be taken off the schedule and advised to consult with their clinician. Any resident(s) who present with symptoms consistent with Covid-19 are tested.

As visitation continues, we ask all visitors (regardless of vaccination status) to please keep your masks on during your visit. In an abundance of caution, we would ask this during outside visits as well.

Furthermore, regardless of vaccination status, please postpone visitation if you have any cold or respiratory symptoms or if you have been around anyone with cold or respiratory symptoms in the last 14 days.

Please reference the links included regarding the core principles of infection control and for a complete list of our visitation guidelines. Thank you!

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.