



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

**IMPORTANT – 10/3/2021 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 completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of testing for all residents of Gardens B as per our memo dated 9/27/2021. We have received most of the results back except for a few. We are pleased to report that these results-to-date are negative. As per the guidance from CDC, CMS and PADOH, fully vaccinated residents on Gardens B do not need to quarantine, but should continue to wear masks at all times when around others for the 14-day post exposure period. Any resident(s) on Gardens B not fully vaccinated, must continue to quarantine for 14 days with in-person visitation restricted to compassion care/end of life only during this period.

We were also notified on Friday that an outside healthcare provider tested positive for COVID-19. Any potentially impacted residents and their responsible party were notified. Quarantine, testing and visitation guidelines apply as noted below consistent with the updated regulatory guidance.

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

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 focus on the impacted neighborhood or individual residents depending upon the unique circumstances of each situation as follows:

- 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, **should wear masks at all times while around others.** Visitation is not suspended for fully vaccinated residents; however, visitors must be aware of the potential risks.
- Any resident(s) who is NOT fully vaccinated must quarantine for 14 days. During this time, visitation is limited to virtual or window visits only. 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 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 had any cold or respiratory symptoms in the last 14 days or if you have been around anyone with cold or respiratory symptoms in the last 14 days.

**Lastly, we continue to make plans to offer the Booster vaccine for Villas residents. The first opportunity will be this Thursday, October 7, 2021. Consent forms are available from the Villas receptionist or at the screening table and are due by Noon TOMORROW (10/4) to be included this Thursday.**

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.