

February 19, 2021



Good Afternoon Everyone,

Hello Everyone,

I don't really have too much to send out today.

Residents were tested by the national guard today and we should have results coming in starting tomorrow sometime. We'll hope for no additional positives.

Yesterday we did in-house testing of staff and no new positives. All staff will be tested again on Monday.

We continue to be in "outbreak" status; and in Phase 0. We will stay in Phase 0 until we have 14 days with no positive results after the last positive results, (this is counted from the day tested not day we learn of the positive results).

The following continues to be in place:

- We will continue to check for symptoms on all residents three times a day.
- All residents are on precautions: no group activities; no dining in groups, and no visitation except for compassionate visits.
- All staff continues to be screened before entering the facility.
- Staff are in full PPE (personal protective equipment) on all floors.
- We continue to test all staff twice a week.
- We are closed to new admissions.

Positivity Rates:

Hillsborough come down from last week. Remember we need it below 10% for two weeks before we can resume indoor visitation (and out of outbreak status).

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Belknap County, NH | 8.9% | Yellow |
| Carroll County, NH | 10.4% | Red |
| Cheshire County, NH | 7.4% | Yellow |
| Coos County, NH | 5.3% | Yellow |
| Grafton County, NH | 7.5% | Yellow |
| Hillsborough County, NH | 13.0% | Red |
| Merrimack County, NH | 10.2% | Red |
| Rockingham County, NH | 13.7% | Red |
| Strafford County, NH | 14.4% | Red |
| Sullivan County, NH | 12.3% | Red |

Vaccine News:

I've received some emails wondering why staff/residents are still testing positive if they've received the vaccine. A person can still test positive for COVID (be a carrier of) after receiving the vaccine. One may not come down with any symptoms and if they did they would be less severe. One is also most likely not die from COVID. Even vaccinated people should be following all guidelines of wearing a mask, social distancing, etc.

ZOOM Meeting:

Our next zoom meeting will be on February 25th at 6pm mark your calendars. As I will be on vacation, Rachel will be hosting along with Kristina our social worker director. Rachel will send out the invite shortly.

Attachment:

I am attaching an article on how CMS is looking a visitation at this time. I thought it may of interest to you.

Have a good week,

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February 12, 2021

CMS: Visitation restrictions must remain

By [Danielle Brown](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is not ready to update nursing home visitation guidance, despite a significant drop in COVID-19 cases following widespread resident vaccinations, a top official said Thursday.

“For the current time, all existing recommendations and guidance for visitation need to be adhered to,” Evan Shulman, CMS director for the Division of Nursing Homes, said during a LeadingAge call for members.

“First, it’s too early,” he added. “We do hear that pretty much the vast majority of residents in nursing homes all received their first dose by the end of January, which is great news. But we have to remember that it’s a two-dose deal and that the immunization period occurs about 10 days after the second dose.”

Shulman noted that even though [cases are plummeting](#), which he called “exciting,” it’s unclear whether 100% of that decline can be attributed to vaccinations. He added health officials don’t yet know if the vaccine prevents transmission or how well it will hold up against COVID-19 variants.

Shulman said those three issues convinced agency officials they “cannot change our visitation or other guidance now at this moment in time, but we are looking at it and want to change it as soon as possible.”

“Until then, everyone needs to keep doing what you’re doing, adhere to all infection control guidelines, when it’s your chance to get vaccines [then] get vaccinated and as more people get vaccinated then more visitation will occur,” he said.

Shulman explained that [current guidance](#) does not restrict communities from resuming some internal activities, such as opening dining rooms, if infection control practices and social distancing are maintained. Nor does it restrict all visitation, instead offering scenarios during which visitation can happen.

“As cases fall, visitation will naturally be able to be increased through our guidance,” he said.