

May 28, 2021

Hi Everyone,

It's been a non-eventful week thus far 😊. I like when I get to tell you that everything is going well in the facility; we still haven't had any positives, the residents continue to enjoy the ongoing activities, and the additional family visits process is going very well.

**Visits Reminders:**

We ask that you be fair when booking your visits so that all family members get a chance to book a visit or two within a two-week time period. As you know we have increased the number of visitors allowed at one time.

Reminder: If ALL visitors including children **are vaccinated** we will allow up to 4 visitors during the visit (private rooms only, semi-private rooms will have to use the lobby area). If ALL visitors are **not vaccinated** the number of visitors allowed will be 2, due to the need for social distancing.

Also, if you are coming for a visit, and you are vaccinated, you no longer need to arrive 15 minutes before the visit. If you are not vaccinated, we are offering you an antigen test prior to entering the building, and would then like you to arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled visit.

**Do you have a Birthday or Anniversary to celebrate?**

With advance notice given, we will allow for these family celebrations with up to 10 family members. These must be scheduled **in advance** with Barbara. We will allow residents to use the community center or the healing garden for their event. If **ALL visitors including children are vaccinated** we will allow you to meet but request that masks be worn (due to the size of the group) however, you can remove the mask in order to enjoy a meal or cake. If **ANY of the visitors are not vaccinated** everyone would be **required** to wear a mask and social distance during the event and no eating would be allowed. We will allow up to a two-hour duration for these events.

**Live Entertainment – Join us!**

I mentioned last week that we have started live entertainment outside and will be continuing for the next few months. We are allowing 2 family members to join if they would like with **advance notice**. If you will only be here during the entertainment then you will only need to

call Barbara and let her know; you **do not** need to schedule this visit online. This is so we can ensure enough spaced seating is available.

If you decide to make it part of a scheduled visit you **would need** to schedule this online **in addition** to letting Barbara know that you will be attending the entertainment so that seating can be made available. Upcoming entertainment starting at 2pm, (weather permitting): 6/3 - Bob Desmarais; 6/10 - Mark Stanzler; 6/15 - Marlena Phillips; 6/23 - Ronnie Chase.

### **Let's go for a ride:**

We are now allowing family members to take their loved one out of the facility. However, there is a specific set of guidelines you must follow in order to do this. Please call Barbara if this is something you are interested in and she will email you the guidelines. Please know that this allowance makes us very nervous and hope that if you decide to do this you follow all guidelines to help protect your loved one in addition to all the residents in our care.

### **Have you heard?**

A nursing home in the north is currently in "outbreak" status at this time; some fully vaccinated staff and residents have tested positive for COVID (in addition to others):

We sincerely hope that all visitors are being truthful with the questions we ask at the door; if you are vaccinated or not, and are following the masking and distancing guidelines based on your vaccinated/nonvaccinated status. It does concern us with the increased visits and our loosening up on the areas noted above, that COVID could be brought into the building.

We are here to care for and protect **all residents** and hope you feel the same way. Of course, our main concern is the unvaccinated residents and staff that are most susceptible to the COVID virus.

### **Visitation Guidelines:**

**Please remember that due to staffing limitations and the number of visitors allowed in the building at any one time, we request that visits be scheduled in advance.**

MTC's visitation guidelines can be found on our web site.

<https://mtcarmelrehabcenter.org/covid-19-update/> .

### **To Schedule a Visit:**

1. Go To: <https://mtcarmelrehabcenter.org/family-members/appointments/>
2. Read this page.
3. Near the bottom is where you can schedule a visit; you are able to select either a "Window/Lobby Visit" OR a "Room Visit"
4. Select the date and time slot you would like; (if the date and/or time is not available it will not allow you to select it.

- ❖ If you have any problems scheduling a visit please call Barbra Gray, Life Enrichment Director, Monday-Friday at 935-4607 and she can assist you.
- ❖ If criteria are met, compassionate care visits are being scheduled by the nursing staff on the particular floor your loved one is residing. We request that these visits be scheduled in advance. Please call the floor(s) directly to schedule your visit @ 627-3811 and follow the prompts to get to a particular floor.

**Positivity Rates:**

The New Hampshire map continues to have counties with substantial community transmission above the 50 cases per 100,000.

Manchester's positivity rate is currently at 2.8%, **DOWN** from 3.4% last week. Below is how the rest of the county's rank. Reminder that the goal is to be below 5% and less than 50 cases per 100,000. All counties are now below the 5% however, the cases per 100,00 has yet to be met.

<b>County</b>	<b>PCR Tests Positivity Rate Last 7 Days - County</b>
Belknap	1.70%
Carroll	2.50%
Cheshire	1.50%
Coos	2.10%
Grafton	0.30%
Manchester	2.80%
Merrimack	2.00%
Nashua	2.70%
Rest of Hillsborough	2.70%
Rockingham	3.70%
Strafford	2.80%
Sullivan	3.20%

**The following interventions and actions continue to be in place:**

- All unvaccinated staff continue to wear an N95 mask and surgical mask.
- All unvaccinated staff are also wearing eye protection in resident care areas.
- All vaccinated staff are wearing a surgical mask, and eye protection in resident care areas.
- We continue to do staff screening before all shifts.
- Due to the positivity rate we are now testing all non-vaccinated staff once per month per state guidelines.
- All residents are assessed for signs and symptoms of Covid-19, 2 times a day.

- The annex continues to be our holding zone for incoming un-vaccinated rehab patients/long-term residents needing to be on a 14-day quarantine. If the incoming patient/resident has been fully vaccinated, they no longer have to be placed on a 14-day quarantine and are being admitted to the appropriate floor.
- **For Patients/Residents**

Group activities:

- If all patients/residents participating in the activity are fully vaccinated, then they may choose to have close contact and to not wear source control during the activity.
- If unvaccinated patients/residents are present, then all participants in the group activity should wear source control and **unvaccinated** patients/residents should physically distance (6') from others.

Communal dining:

- Fully vaccinated patients/residents can participate in communal dining without use of source control or physical distancing.
- If **unvaccinated** patients/residents are dining in a communal area (e.g., dining room) all patients/residents should use source control when not eating and **unvaccinated** patients/residents should continue to remain at least 6 feet from others.

**ZOOM Meeting:**

Our next zoom meeting will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, mark your calendars.

Have a great holiday and a good week,

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