

August 27, 2021

Hi Everyone,

It's the end of August 😞 where did the summer go..... Hope you are all doing well.

**New Policy and Condition of Employment for Staff:**

Catholic Charities has instituted the following policy this past Monday. We have also learned that the federal government is working with CMS to implement a mandatory policy that will affect all nursing homes across the country and should take effect soon.

While many of our employees are vaccinated others are not. We serve a vulnerable population in our nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities. The urgent need to vaccinate the remaining few staff will achieve the continued safety of, the residents, their colleagues, their families and the community at large.

CCNH didn't enter into this decision lightly. While we respect personal choice as to healthcare decisions the safety of our residents and staff must come first. As the Delta variant and other mutations of the COVID-19 virus have introduced a new layer of risk to the health, safety and well-being of our residents, staff, family members and community at large. Vaccinations are the best protection to mitigate the risk from this pandemic. We are taking a bold step to increase the vaccinated rate among our staff for the good of others.

All CCNH employees need to be fully vaccinated before October 31, 2021. Unvaccinated employees must receive at least their first dose of the vaccine by September 13, and the second dose must be received four weeks after (note that an individual is not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after vaccination).

Unvaccinated staff can seek an exemption from this requirement for medical or religious reasons but need to provide proof. All medical and religious exemption requests are subject to review and approval from CCNH senior management. If a requested exemption is granted the staff member would be expected to follow additional health and safety precautions that may not be applicable to fully vaccinated staff while in the work environment.

**Positivity Rates:**

Manchester's positivity rate went up from 4.0% to 5.8% last week.

| County   | 8/27/21 | 8/17/21 | 8/10/2021 | 8/6/2021 | 7/27/21 | 7/20/2021 | 7/13/2021 |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Belknap  | 6.3%    | 3.5%    | 2.80%     | 2.0%     | 1.7%    | 0.70%     | 0.80%     |
| Carroll  | 7.4%    | 5.40%   | 2.60%     | 2.7%     | 1.0%    | 1.10%     | 0.40%     |
| Cheshire | 4.9%    | 6.50%   | 4.60%     | 3.7%     | 1.7     | 1.40%     | 0.60%     |

|                      |      |      |        |      |       |       |       |
|----------------------|------|------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Coos                 | 4.9% | 4.6% | 14.40% | 2.2% | 1.07% | 1.90% | 9.20% |
| Grafton              | 2.4% | 1.5% | 1.70%  | 1.6% | 1.8%  | 0.70% | 0.50% |
| Manchester           | 5.8% | 4.0% | 4.60%  | 5.0% | 4.2%  | 0.80% | 0.80% |
| Merrimack            | 4.5% | 2.7% | 2.80%  | 2.8% | 2.8%  | 0.90% | 0.80% |
| Nashua               | 5.8% | 2.5% | 2.60%  | 4.1% | 2.7%  | 1.90% | 1.20% |
| Rest of Hillsborough | 7.0% | 5.2% | 4.60%  | 3.9% | 1.9%  | 1.50% | 1.00% |
| Rockingham           | 7.9% | 4.7% | 5.00%  | 5.1% | 3.1%  | 1.80% | 1.20% |
| Strafford            | 9.1% | 4.4% | 3.50%  | 3.9% | 2.1%  | 1.50% | 0.20% |
| Sullivan             | 4.6% | 7.8% | 3.50%  | 1.9% | 1.1%  | 2.90% | 0.50% |

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

- All unvaccinated staff continue to wear an N95 mask and surgical mask.
- All vaccinated staff are wearing a surgical mask at all times and in all areas.
- We continue to do staff screening before all shifts.
- We are testing all non-vaccinated staff weekly per state guidelines.
- All residents are assessed for signs and symptoms of Covid-19, 2 times a day and if there is a noticeable change in their condition.

**Past News Letters/Other Info:**

- News letters are posted on our web site under COVID Updates.
- MTC's visitation guidelines can be found on our web site.  
<https://mtcarmelrehabcenter.org/covid-19-update/> .

❖ **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.**

**Monthly ZOOM Meeting:**

Our next zoom meeting will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, mark your calendars; an invite will go out prior to that meeting.

Have a great week,

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