



11/23/20

Dear Residents and Families,

I am certain that you are aware that the COVID-19 positivity rates are climbing exponentially in our county and those that surround us. If you recall, I informed you that Governor DeWine requires all facilities to test staff weekly since October, and more often, if indicated, based on a Federal Positivity Rate. Today, we received the results from last Thursday's test and we had 4 employees with positive results. This immediately puts us in the Federally required Outbreak Testing cycle which requires us to test all residents and staff every 3-7 days. This morning, we tested all of our residents and everyone's results were Negative. Our staff will be retested on Wednesday and then again next Monday. Residents will be retested on Friday the 27th and if necessary, again on Friday the 4th. If all results are negative, that will conclude our Outbreak Testing. However, since Lorain County is seeing a surge in COVID-19 rates, CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid) as placed Lorain County in Level 3 or Red, Positivity Rate at 11%. Therefore, our staff will be tested twice a week until the Positivity Rate decreases in Lorain County to below 10%.

There are some additional changes that are related to Facility Outbreak Testing. While we are in Outbreak Testing, we are not authorized to allow Inside Visitation. All scheduled Inside Visitation for the next week has been canceled. You should have received a personal phone call from Olivia Presti, our Activity Director, in regards to the cancelation. If we conclude our Outbreak Testing on December 3, we will immediately resume inside visitation. There is a possibility that it takes longer for us to complete the Outbreak Testing requirements due to the high incidence of COVID-19 in our greater community. In the meantime, we can still offer window, virtual and outside visits. If you would like to schedule any of these, please contact the Activities or Social Service Departments.

With widespread community transmission, the risk of everyone's exposure is even greater. We continue to educate our staff on personal preventative measures such as social distancing, hand washing, and proper PPE management both at work and in the community. To encourage families to have Thanksgiving with only their immediate family member with whom they live, we are providing each of our employees with a Ham. Our team has done an amazing job, and you can make an impact too! Following the Health Department Guidance on social distancing, avoiding group activities, staying home unless it is necessary to be out, wearing face coverings, and performing hand hygiene are effective ways to eliminate your risk and exposure. We are all in this together, and we appreciate your support and understanding. As a reminder, all of our COVID-19 information, newsletters and numbers are under the COVID-19 Updates link on our website: www.welcomenursinghome.com. You will also be able to see which types of visitation are available on that link.

We wish you a lovely Thanksgiving. Amidst all of this, there is much to be Thankful For.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L
Director of Quality Assurance