

December 20, 2021

Dear Residents & Families:

We were notified that one employee at Samaritan Health Center and one employee in the RCAC tested positive for COVID-19. This puts us into outbreak status. We have conducted contact tracing and will test all staff and residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated) that have worked or reside on the affected units (4th floor and RCAC) until we have gone 14 consecutive days without any new cases. We will be upgrading the required PPE for staff on the affected units to N95 masks and eyewear to prevent further transmission. Residents will be asked to stay in their rooms on the affected unit until we have conducted one round of testing to confirm that the virus is contained.

We do not recommend visitation during an outbreak due to the potential risk of transmission of COVID-19, which can lead to illness, hospitalization, and even death, however visitation during outbreak is permitted. Visitors doing visits on the 4th floor will be required to wear an N-95 mask and face shield and will be educated on the risks of entering during an outbreak on our Accushield sign-in kiosk. We also ask that residents wear a mask during visits. We are still required to follow the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention:

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Samaritan Campus will screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred).
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g. use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit.
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH)

We ask that visitors please go directly to the resident's room and avoid direct contact with other residents and staff (if unnecessary) and that visitors do not congregate in public areas such as dining rooms, the multipurpose room, day rooms, down by the vending machines, etc. We also ask that residents please wear masks during visits. These precautions will mitigate the risk of further transmission. Please call our Campus Communication Hotline for the most up to date information 262-335-4599 regarding visitation and outbreaks.

We are saddened to deliver this news so close to the holidays. If you would like to set up a virtual visit, please contact Carrie Jeffords, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor 262-335-4533. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your social worker or me.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience. Despite this news, we are wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season!

Taya Walk, NHA
Campus Administrator