

May 14th, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

Another step closer!!

With the CDC announcement this week of vaccinated people and mask wearing this week – we all can get excited to know that these steps of progress continue!

However, before we get too excited, the new guidance is not intended for health care settings.

The Wisconsin Department of Quality Assurance (DQA) states that PPE/ masks must still be worn in healthcare settings and we will be the last area to be reduced. As the community continues to lessen restrictions, healthcare settings need to remain conservative due to our vulnerable populations.

PPE, vaccination, and masks in combination gives us all the best protection. The reason being is that if one avenue fails, there are additional avenues of protection.

Indoor and outdoor visitation for those who are not in quarantine or isolation is encouraged – especially with these beautiful spring days! Residents who may be going on outside excursions should continue to follow community recommendations but consider the risk. Practice good hand hygiene and wear masks, continue social distancing to the best of your ability. Vaccination status limits the risk.

Residents visiting homes of family and friends may follow community guidance related to vaccination status. It is now deemed ok to remove masks and not socially distance as long as **all parties in your group are vaccinated.**

The really good news - this does go for in the facility visits IN RESIDENT ROOMS! Family members and residents can remove masks if they are both vaccinated! (Due to HIPAA however, we, as staff will not be able to share which residents have been vaccinated.)

Walking through the halls and all other common areas are considered “community areas”. **Masks are required for all in these cases.** We still ask family members and visitors to visit in the resident room only. Again – we are making steps toward a more open or “normal” way of living.....please continue to have patience.

As I write about steps – today I take a very big step. This is my last day of work here at Samaritan. As many of you know, I had announced my retirement – and it is really here!!

I am confident in a really great team of individuals who continue to strive each day in providing the very best of care and compassion. This is a vocation – not just a job. There is a great deal of love of neighbor (and family) here. Thank you all for being part of my extended family as I close out my 42-year career in aging services.

All our communications from this past year can be found on our website at www.samaritancampus.com
Updates are also available on our Campus Communications Hotline at 262-335-4599.

Until our paths cross again -

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