

January 22, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

Earlier this morning our Medical Director, Dr. Gary Herdrich, spoke to staff and residents about the COVID-19 vaccine. We used this forum as an opportunity for questions and answers about the vaccine, the virus, and these challenging times.

We have our second and third COVID-19 vaccine clinic dates set up with CVS pharmacy. These are January 27th and February 24th. All but a few residents have chosen to take the vaccine and our staff participation numbers are growing as well.

Our goal continues to be to keep our residents safe, protect staff, and be able to resume as much normalcy as possible in the coming months.

We happily have yet another week of resident testing that shows NO NEW CASES in our resident population. Currently we have no positive cases within our residents on campus.

We are continuing, at this point, to do daily rapid testing for our direct care staff – ensuring that we are catching a positive staff person as early as possible. This has been effective. We have had a few new community acquired cases that we have been able to catch and quarantine quickly.

Window visits have restarted this week!!!

We are no longer limiting how many of you can visit at one time and no longer limiting children or pets. We do ask you to follow the principles of being safe with and amongst your group. Each resident is able to have 1 window visit every other week. If you would like to visit on the “off weeks” you can call the day of to see if we have available slots for that day. If we do, we can sign you up for that same day. We want to make sure all families are getting a chance to see their loved ones as window visits have been on hold for a while.

We sent an email out to families mid-week notifying them that visits had started. Email is the most effective and efficient way that we have to notify all families of changes happening in our facility. If you have not given us your email address – or if it has changed, please contact us to so you can receive these messages. We realize that not everyone has email – so we do try to send a hard copy letter out monthly or so. You can always utilize our campus website (www.samaritancampus.com) or call for phone updates are on our Campus Hotline 262-335-4599.

Information also goes out to our residents on our in-house Channel 900. We hope that we are meeting expectations for communications with you! However, if you ever have questions – please contact the front desk who will route your call to the best resource.

The window visits for families are outdoors and in **heated** tents. (Winter attire is suggested however!) We have new touchless communication devices that work much better than cell phones.

Staff is in process of updating both our policy and the environment for us to be able to do face to face inside visits – while still remaining socially distanced. We believe and hope that we will be able to do this in the next few weeks.

For this to happen our residents need to remain healthy; our facility needs to not be in outbreak status and the County positivity rate needs to improve. Please help do your part in the community: wear a mask, wash your hands, avoid groups and stay socially distanced – and when it is your turn please seriously consider the vaccine.

We know that many of you are taking part in the virtual visits with your family members here on campus. We love that everyone wants to stay connected – and we understand that this has been a really long time since this past March and our necessary shutdown. We ask that you please understand that we are working to do both virtual and window visits along with starting small groups and continuing our staff one on one visits and cares. We ask you to please be reasonable in your requests of frequency with these visits as our staff resources are limited. Those of you who have larger families – perhaps you can consider combining those calls. We are stretching to do all we can and ask for your understanding.

Small group dining and small group activities are beginning to take shape. Throughout these last few months, our Dining Services has been working on new menus and some “short order” type items. We look forward to this rolling out and any and all bright spots in the days ahead.

We are told that, as a nation, we can expect that there will be challenging days ahead with this virus, even though there is a small light at the end of the tunnel. I look forward to the day when my communications to you do not include anything about the virus!

Together we will get there!

Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback.

Mari Beth Borek

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