



## COVID19 News

### **Presidential Oaks Battles COVID-19**

In May, The White House announced that one of its own staff tested positive for COVID-19. Consider the endless resources available and the gigantic responsibility of keeping the leader of the free world safe. Now, consider the same demands on New Hampshire's long-term care communities.

Outbreaks continue despite the many preventative actions put into place in March. Long-term care facilities have been closed to visitors, have been screening employees before their shift, and have been screening residents as well. Yet, as of June 6, 2020, 1306 healthcare workers and 1674 long-term care residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Therefore, it is the asymptomatic worker that brings the virus in.

In addition to suspending visits and screening staff and residents every day, Presidential Oaks began weekly testing of every employee on 05/17/2020. Presidential Oaks is also testing 10% of our resident population weekly. Additionally, we are performing frequent observations of hand hygiene and the proper use of masks, gowns, and gloves.

Presidential Oaks is blessed to be "COVID-Free"...today.

## **The Future of Family Visits**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services set our requirements for each State to move through the Phases of “Re-Opening”. Phase 1 (“Significant Mitigation”) is the highest level of vigilance, which prohibits visits, except for compassionate (end of life) situations. It also restricts non-essential personnel., like the hairdresser, physicians, dentists, podiatrists, etc. It also requires social distancing for Activities and dining.

For New Hampshire to move to Phase 2, there can be no new, long-term care outbreaks for 14 days. Additionally, long-term facilities must report having adequate staff, PPE, cleaning supplies, and access to testing for COVID-19. Phase 2 continues to “generally prohibit” visitation (except for compassionate care), but, non-essential “necessary” personnel (like the hairdresser) will be allowed entry.

Regrettably, outbreaks in long-term care communities continue. We remain in Phase 1.

## **Schedule a Virtual Visit**

A Virtual Visit can be arranged for families to stay in touch with their loved one. But, resources are limited. Our Nurses are working hard to monitor every resident for symptoms of COVID19 and must focus on the skilled nursing care that each resident requires. Therefore, families must arrange for a virtual visit

The visit can be either over the telephone or via Skype and each resident may have up to (2) Virtual Visits per week. We recommend that families coordinate.

**Call 603-724-6120 Monday—Friday 9:00-3:00; OR**

**Email [visits@presidentialoaks.org](mailto:visits@presidentialoaks.org)**

## The Great Outdoors

Outdoor Activities allow residents to enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds of nature and to benefit from sunlight. Retirement Living residents are welcome to go outside for walks or to just sit and read. They are encouraged to avoid the Visitor Parking lot so as not to “run into” a visitor or vendor.

Other residents have designated Resident Only areas for some outdoor recreation. This is a scheduled process, which requires coordination with medication times, meals, therapy appointments, and, of course, the weather. The Activities Department will invite residents on a rotating basis. The group will be limited to 7 participants.

Resident safety is of the utmost concern. It is critical that residents are protected from exposure to COVID-19 with social distancing, face coverings, and handwashing.

## Sunshine Cart Guidelines

- Consider balloons, musical cards, pajama grams, craft kits, framed photos, Hawaiian shirts, sun hats, and outdoor plants!
- Label with Resident's Name
- **No chemicals (including cleaning products), perishable food or plants**
- Medications (including OTC's) will be delivered directly to the nurse
- Make sure it fits on the cart—Large items will incur a “delivery fee”
- Leave on Bench outside the Door between 9:00am and 3:00pm

*Thank You for Making Someone's Day Special!*

## Mail Delivery Reminder

Remember, regulations require us to give all residents the same rights they would have if living in their own home. Therefore, mail and other parcels goes directly to the addressee.

If you feel that certain mail should not go to a resident, the legal proxy should contact banks, utilities, and other businesses to provide them with the financial proxy address.

## COVID Booster Thanks



Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who have donated money, plants, gift cards, and food to the COVID Booster Fund. Special recognition, today, goes to Cathy Yeager, the daughter of one of our residents. Cathy comes by every day to deadhead and water the plants, replenish them, and to leave a little gift for her mother.