

December/January 2021

## Neighborhood News

### Family Updates

#### Testing Results

We are still receiving our COVID results within 48 hours of receipt. Since our last report we have tested staff and residents for three weeks running. The week of 11/16 we had 2 residents and 5 staff positive for COVID. Our residents experienced symptoms and were isolated on our designated COVID unit for the required isolation period. Both residents have fully recovered. Staff ranged from mild symptoms to no symptoms at all. Some staff required longer quarantine periods due to symptoms. We were blessed to have no one test positive the week of Thanksgiving! Unfortunately the week of 11/30 we experienced 9 positive staff members. Again some had symptoms while others did not. We completed testing on 12/7 for all staff, SNF and cottage residents with 2 positive staff. As of Monday December 7, 2020 CMS's published positivity rate for Grand Traverse County for the week of 12/4 reached 10.4% which mandates that staff (not residents) are to be tested twice within a 7 day period. As a result we tested staff again on 12/10 with 1 positive staff. CMS published positivity rate for Grand Traverse County climbed to 11.6% for the published week of 12/7. We will continue with twice weekly testing for all staff.

#### Staff Screening

Staff are required to enter the building through the employee tunnel wearing their mask. Employees have their temperature and photo taken via the thermal camera. If a temperature is outside of the acceptable range of 94-100 degrees, the nursing supervisor and administration are instantly alerted. An assessment is conducted by nursing at this time. If the temperature is acceptable, the screen on the thermal camera flashes green and staff proceed to the questionnaire kiosk to complete the screening. Should staff check yes to any symptoms, the system prevents them from completing the screening process and a nursing assessment is completed at this time as well.

#### COVID Vaccination

Although we do not know when the vaccine will be ready, we have had contact with Walgreens pharmacy who was chosen to vaccinate our residents and staff. As we understand it we will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine with vaccine clinics scheduled starting around December 28<sup>th</sup>. We will start the process of obtaining consents for both residents and staff that wish to be vaccinated. Vaccination is in the form of 2 doses 21 to 28 days apart depending on which manufacturer vaccine we are provided with. Even though there will be three scheduled clinics, all must choose to be vaccinated or not by the second clinic day as you cannot receive the vaccine on the last day being offered. The third clinic is for administering the second dose. Being vaccinated does not preclude staff or residents from adhering to current infection control practices or allow staff to not wear the required PPE.

#### Infection Control

Employee and any resident illness is tracked through our infection control processes to ensure that staff and residents are not exposing otherwise healthy individuals to potential germs. Staff and residents practice strict hand hygiene. Facility surfaces are disinfected several times daily and as needed. Staff are continually provided education on infection control practices within the workplace, in the community and at home. Staff are also required to wear eye protection while in the resident areas. We continue to administer the influenza vaccine to staff and residents. As interpreted by MDHHS, all new admissions, readmissions and those residents who leave the facility for appointments must be quarantined (preferably on the same unit) for 14 days regardless of a resident's COVID status. The Rehab unit is being utilized for this purpose and has been divided into three sections – new and readmissions, those who go out for an appointment and those who may become COVID positive. Staff on this unit are required to wear KN95's along with full PPE including face shields when entering any isolation room.

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## **Communication**

In addition to phone conferences between families and staff, COVID information and facility happenings can be found on our website under the Weekly Family Update tab, the Neighborhood News and the Legacy publication. In the event that families need to be notified of a positive COVID case, a ROBO call is sent out with information needed and direction to review the facility update page. Staff receive a facility text notifying them of a positive COVID. Our residents are notified verbally with reassurances and questions answered.

## **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)**

Currently we have an adequate supply of gowns, face shields and masks. The glove shortage continues and although we have enough supplies to provide care, sizes and type are many times not available. Other than gloves, we have managed a healthy supply of PPE to last us through the winter and flu season. We continue to search out legitimate suppliers of approved PPE. All staff are wearing KN95 masks, heavy duty goggles and/or full face shields. Full PPE including isolation gowns are utilized in the isolation unit and fitted N95's are mandatory in the care of COVID positive residents.

## **Visitation**

We continue with a large volume of electronic visits between the residents and their families. Window visits continue weekly and we will be moving indoor visits in the front lobby vestibule. The family member will still make an appointment as usual however will be able to be in the warm vestibule while the resident remains in the lobby. We have not been able to facilitate any in person visits due to several factors including 14 days without a new COVID positive case and our county is at the level E on the MI Start map for county risk levels. MDHHS had instituted additional COVID mitigating requirements that were due to expire on December the 8<sup>th</sup>. This period has been extended for an additional 12 days with potential to extend through the holidays.

## **Vestibule Visits**

With the weather now becoming too harsh for outside window visits our staff is recommending we discontinue the window visits and now utilize the existing Pavilions entrance for vestibule visits to begin the week of 1/3/21.

**Each day a specific department or Pavilions will be scheduled for the visitations, as follows:**

**Monday- Rehab  
Tuesday – Aspen & Elm  
Wednesday - Birch  
Thursday- Cherry  
Friday – Dogwood**

Visits may take place in the vestibule between 10:30-12 and 1:30-4 on the assigned days. They will be in 15 minute increments as they have been scheduled around and between meals.

There will be a rolling cart placed outside during these hours where families may continue to drop off items. Take-out food is discouraged during this time since it will be out in the cold, and we will not have staff going through the vestibule to pick it up with families present.

Families may use the vestibule phone to call the Campus Manager to speak with the resident. Families may not sign-up for more than one month at a time. All visits must be prescheduled by contacting the Pavilion Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) or social worker. For the cottages please contact the director or the cottage nurse.

The Pavilions leadership and staff recognize that this may be a challenging Holiday Season for our residents and their families. We hope that you will find some comfort in our commitment to help everyone stay safe, and connected, while working within the restrictions we must follow.

### **Social Workers**

Aspen/Birch - Nicole Saheb .....932-3107  
Cherry - Amy Stein-Hansen.....932-3307  
Dogwood - Cindi Pobuda.....932-3407  
Elm - Holly Kazim.....932-3507  
Rehab - Leah Masters.....932-3707  
Kim Kucharski.....932-3727

Main Building - 1000 Pavilions Circle Traverse City, MI 49684 (231) 932-3000  
Evergreen Cottage - 521 Cottageview Drive (231) 932-3600  
Hawthorn Cottage - 523 Cottage Arbor Lane (231) 932-3620  
Willow Cottage - 525 Cottage Arbor Lane (231) 932-3640  
Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Office (231) 9323018  
Website - [www.gtpavilions.org](http://www.gtpavilions.org)

