



# Neighborhood News

May 2021

## Family Updates

### Testing Results

Since March we have had 2 staff positives the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>. There was an identified COVID positive direct care worker on the Elm unit and a nurse on the Rehab unit. Both were confirmed with a PCR laboratory test. CMS's published positivity rate for Grand Traverse County is at 13.8% as of the week of April 26<sup>th</sup>. As it has been above 10% for the past 2 weeks, staff are tested twice weekly.

### 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 and 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.

### Visitation

We continue with a large volume of electronic visits between the residents and their families. The county level per the MI Start Map continues to maintain a level E. This does not prohibit visitations however, both MDHHS and CMS issued revised rules and regulations on how visitations can be conducted. We have revised our procedures on how visitation and have posted them on the family weekly update page. We can no longer mandate testing prior to entering for visitors seeing residents. We can request and encourage that visitors allow a rapid test. Visitation also must cease upon the identification of a positive staff or resident until at least 1 round of outbreak testing has been completed. This has resulted in very limited visitation for the past few weeks as the rapid testing provided positive results for 9 staff members at various times with 7 of those confirmed negative with PCR testing.

### 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, while residents are notified verbally with reassurances and questions answered. Multiple communications were sent this month to both staff and families.

**Continued** —→

### Infection Control

Employee and 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.

MDHHS and CMS have issued new guidance on the cohorting of new admissions and readmissions. We are no longer required to have those residents who have outside appointments in isolation, if fully vaccinated. They are allowed to return to their rooms for quarantine (14 days in their room) without having to initiate further isolation procedures. There is also provisions for new admissions who are fully vaccinated in that, they too, no longer have to be admitted with full PPE, yet remain quarantined for 14 days. Our policies have been revised to reflect the new guidance.

### Vaccine

We were able to secure the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and had administered it to new admissions and staff requesting to be vaccinated. This vaccine was pulled off the market on April 13<sup>th</sup> due to rare complications. This may cause some anxiety and unfortunately prevent others from becoming vaccinated due to trust and concerns with vaccines. Vaccination does not preclude staff or residents from adhering to current infection control practices or allow staff from wearing required PPE.

### Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Currently we have an adequate supply of gowns, face shields and masks. Due to the increase in our county's positivity rate staff are again required to wear KN95's at all times with goggles or 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.



**We will be celebrating Mother's day with tea, pastries, cookies & flowers for all of our female residents.**

### 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) 932-3018  
Website - [www.gtpavilions.org](http://www.gtpavilions.org)



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