



December 15, 2020

Dear Residents, Patients and Families,

As we prepare for the COVID-19 vaccine, we are still battling the virus on our campus. One positive patient is currently being cared for in a dedicated section of our Evergreen Way neighborhood. A staff member was also identified as testing positive during our ongoing surveillance testing and is quarantining at home. Anyone who was potentially exposed has already been notified.

Sadly we are reporting that one resident passed away this past week as a result of COVID-19. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family as we resolve to continue this fight in honor of all who have suffered loss during this time.

To help us in this fight, and consistent with an outbreak scenario, we are continuing to restrict small group activities, including dining, on the neighborhoods; continuing additional PPE use for staff on Evergreen Way; and keeping our Barber Shop/Beauty Salon closed. All indoor/outdoor visits remain suspended; however, virtual or Zoom visits may be scheduled through Kathy Cookson, Kathy.Cookson@McLeancare.org or (860) 658-3725. Use of the courtyard continues based on scheduled times for each neighborhood.

In order to lift any mitigating strategies, we must have two full weeks of negative test results. We are continuing surveillance testing of all residents and staff and will report any positive test results to you.

The COVID-19 vaccine is on the way and will be distributed to the McLean community in phases. We are sharing the preliminary details with you as we know them below:

- We will receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine through a collaboration with CVS pharmacy
- CVS staff will be onsite to administer the two vaccines
- Nursing Home residents and staff will receive the first dose on **January 6**

- Nursing Home residents and staff will receive the second dose on **January 27**
- We are awaiting additional clinic dates for Assisted Living and Independent Living residents and staff

If you are interested in having your family member vaccinated, you must express your interest by emailing your family member's name **by Friday, December 18, 12pm** to Vickie Dirienzo vickie.dirienzo@mcleancare.org.

YOUR email is NOT CONSENT. A separate communication will come from Vickie and will include a consent form to be completed and signed. This form must be scanned/emailed back, along with a front and back copy of a current insurance card (insurance policy must be in effect 1/1/2021).

We will share more information as we receive it, and attached is a Fact Sheet provided to us by CVS on the vaccine. We've also included a letter from our Medical Director, Dr. Wayne Paulekas, with more information.

Additionally, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will hold a public meeting on Thursday, December 17th from 6pm-7:30pm. You can access the meeting here: <https://ct-n.com>.

As the holiday season gets underway, so does winter weather in New England! As you may have heard, snow is forecasted for our area for Wednesday evening into Thursday. We are currently planning our preparedness strategy to maintain the safety and comfort of our community and we are well-equipped to weather the storm. Our recent updates and enhancements in our Health Center building have fortified our infrastructure, and our staff is well prepared to manage any disruption in power to continue to care and serve our population with strength and grace. Even in wintry weather, We are McLean Strong.

Our next joint Family Council meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday December 16 at 2pm. We are looking forward to connecting with all of you on the health of our community, as well as address any questions or considerations you might have regarding the upcoming vaccine distribution or weather event.

Please feel free to send along any questions to Jennifer Bryant before the meeting to jennifer.bryant@mcleancare.org.

Meeting details are below:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+1 860-241-5262 United States, Hartford (Toll)

Conference ID: 293 990 335#

We'd like to remind everyone of the precautionary measures we're taking before delivering holiday gifts, food and other items dropped off for our patients and residents.

- Fresh food must be clearly marked as food and in a container that can be wiped down. Please include the resident's name so it can be delivered immediately.
- All other items, cardboard boxes and bags will be held for three days before delivering them to the resident.
- If the items are clothes that the resident/patient needs urgently, please make a note on the bag. All other clothes and linens will be held for three days before being laundered and delivered.

It is with an abundance of caution that we will continue to sanitize every package that arrives at our door and we appreciate your cooperation as we celebrate the season while keeping our community healthy and safe.

You will find our mitigating strategies and cumulative data below.

Be well.



David Bordonaro
President



Lisa Clark
Vice President, Administrator of the Health Center

Mitigating Strategies

Our staff remains vigilant in appropriate screening, PPE usage and hand hygiene. Our mitigating strategies continue to be in effect. You will find these listed below:

- Outside and inside visits have been suspended. End of life and compassionate care visits are being scheduled with physician approval.
- Small group activities, including dining, have been suspended for all neighborhoods.
- A health screening process is in place at our entrance for all essential personnel entering the building and for those who have scheduled visits.
- The Beauty Salon / Barber Shop is temporarily closed.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and worn by all staff while on campus.
- Enhanced cleaning process with approved products used and increased focus on touched surfaces.
- Masks are provided to all residents to wear when out of their room or if engaged with their care team (with the exception of face care, taking medications or eating).
- Regular audits are conducted by the CT Department of Public Health, National Guard and CDC to survey our infection control practices.
- Medical appointments via telemedicine are encouraged whenever possible.
- COVID-19 weekly testing of staff follows the Governor's executive orders and we are currently working with state assigned partners. We have isolated any resident with a positive test result and implemented additional testing and cohorting strategies.

Cumulative Data as of 12/15/2020

Positive cases are noted based on resident's home neighborhood.

Assisted Living – 10 positive residents to-date (8 recovered), with last positive case identified 11/14/20

- Robinson has had 1 positive (1 recovered)
- Atwater has had 1 positive (1 recovered)
- Abernethy has had 8 positives (6 recovered), 2 resident deaths (1 death at another facility)

Skilled Nursing Home – 26 positive residents to-date (20 recovered), with our last positive case identified 12/7/20

- Evergreen Way (post-acute) has had 6 positives (5 recovered), 1 death at another facility
- Chapel Crossing has had 1 positive (1 recovered)
- Skyview Terrace has had 19 positives (15 recovered), 4 resident deaths

Campus Employees – 32 positive employees (30 recovered) with last positive case reported 12/12/20