

January 12, 2021



Dear Residents, Patients and Families,

We hope you are all well as we send our weekly update on the health and safety of our campus.

Last Wednesday, we successfully held our first vaccine clinic for skilled nursing residents and staff. While this is an exciting step towards vaccinating our campus, we are still managing the COVID-19 virus in our Health Center.

Currently, we are caring for nine COVID-19 positive patients in an isolated section of our Evergreen Way neighborhood and four residents in their homes in The Abernethy. Today, we learned of an additional staff member who received a COVID-19 positive test result as part of our ongoing surveillance testing. Contact tracing is underway and anyone who has been potentially exposed will be notified by our care team.

With news of increased positivity rates across our state and nation, it is more important than ever to remain diligent in our efforts to protect our own health and those around us. The positivity rate in Hartford County is just over 13%, requiring us to continue mandatory staff testing twice a week. We know that increased testing and early detection are key tools in helping us prevent any possible spread.

We are also proactively engaging our staff in an internal campaign to remind each of us the vital care we must take of ourselves and our coworkers in order to beat this virus and win the fight against this invisible enemy. The “I’m Safe, You’re Safe” campaign is reminding all of us to rely on each other as we care and protect our patients and residents. This is just another example of how we are remaining “McLean Strong.” Together, we will keep each other safe. Together, we will win.

To help us in the fight, our mitigating strategies found below, currently incorporate enhanced infection control measures. These additional protective actions will remain in effect until we have two full weeks of all negative test results.

Our next COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be:

- **Saturday, January 16 for Assisted Living residents and Health Center staff**
- **Wednesday, January 20 for Village residents and staff**

Additional first time vaccines will be given on Wednesday, January 27 as our first round folks receive their second shot.

If your loved one is scheduled to receive their Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine through McLean this Saturday, and you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Vickie Dirienzo at vickie.dirienzo@mcleancare.org or 860-658-3702.

While news of the vaccine is offering us hope, we do anticipate that any changes to our current restrictions may take some time, including onsite visits. Compassionate care and end of life visits are still being held and can be scheduled through your loved one's care team. Virtual or Zoom visits can be scheduled by contacting Kathy Cookson, Kathy.Cookson@McLeancare.org or (860) 658-3725.

We realize with family members near and far that a way many families are staying connected is by sending or dropping off cards and other treats for their loved ones. Please remember the precautionary measures we're taking before delivering 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.

We appreciate your support as we work through the vaccination process and await additional guidance from our health partners before making changes to our current safety procedures.

Our next scheduled joint Family Council meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20 at 2pm. Meeting log-in details will be sent in next Tuesday's update. Please remember to send any questions to Joan Stefanowicz joan.stefanowicz@mcleancare.org so we may answer them during the meeting.

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 an increased focus on touched surfaces remains top priority.
- 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. Internal campaigns and audits have been implemented to reinforce consistent and effective preventative measures.
- Medical appointments via telemedicine are encouraged whenever possible.
- COVID-19 testing of staff follows the Governor’s executive orders and we are currently working with state assigned partners. Skilled nursing staff will test two times each week per CMS recommendations. We have isolated any resident with a positive test result and implemented additional testing and cohorting strategies.

Cumulative data below is from March 2020 to January 12, 2021.

Positive cases are noted based on a resident’s home neighborhood.

| | Positive | Last positive case reported on: | Recovered | Deaths |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Assisted Living | | | | |
| Robinson | 1 | | 1 | |
| Atwater | 1 | | 1 | |
| Abernethy | 15 | 1/5/21 | 6 | 2 (1 at other facility) |
| Total for Assisted Living | 17 | 1/5/21 | 8 | |
| | | | | |
| Skilled Nursing | | | | |
| Evergreen Way (post-acute) | 13 | 1/6/21 | 6 | 1 (other facility) |
| Chapel Crossing | 1 | | 1 | |
| Skyview Terrace | 21 | 1/4/21 | 15 | 4 |
| Total for Skilled Nursing | 34 | 1/4/21 | 22 | |
| | | | | |
| Employees | 39 | 1/12/21 | 34 | |