

September 18, 2021



Dear McLean Patients, Residents, and Families,

We are sending an update today to let you know that we were notified of a visitor who tested positive yesterday after visiting a resident on The Abernethy neighborhood on Thursday. Contact tracing has been completed. As of yesterday, Friday, September 17, the resident and any potentially exposed staff have all tested negative for COVID-19. We are following isolation and testing protocols for those directly exposed.

There is no change in visitation at this time.

While this news is disappointing, we would like to share some additional details of this specific instance to underscore the importance of following McLean's and the Town of Simsbury's mask mandate for all people inside a building.

The visitor was asymptomatic and fully vaccinated. This person was tested outside of McLean after the visit on Thursday and called us once they received the unexpected positive results on Friday afternoon. The visitor kept a mask on and socially distanced during the entire visit with their loved one in the health center. We are so grateful to them for their respect for the current guidelines of wearing a mask and socially distancing which resulted in a low risk exposure.

We know that the variant strains of the virus are very contagious. With the high transmission rates in Hartford County, this unexpected exposure could occur again. We appreciate everyone's help in following strict infection control practices outlined in a video on our [website](#).

If you, or anyone that visits McLean, should discover you are positive within 14 days of visiting us, please call the nursing supervisor so we can take the appropriate actions immediately to assess the potential exposure and implement the necessary isolation protocols to stop potential spread.

Attached please find a copy of our mitigating strategies.

We thank you for all of your support to help keep our community healthy.

David Bordonaro  
President

Lisa Clark  
Vice President, Administrator of the Health Center

## Visitation Guidelines and Scheduling

**Note:** *Compassionate care visits continue to be arranged through the nursing staff after completing our clinical review. These are for significant changes in condition or end of life.*

- Please bring your driver's license or photo ID. Also, please do not visit if you are not feeling well and be sure to abide by all travel guidelines, found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>.
- Visitors must wear tight-fitting masks into our building and be screened at the front entrance of our health center.
- If visitors and the resident are fully vaccinated, everyone will need to wear a tight-fitting mask at all times while visiting inside our building (in all inside visitation locations including the resident's room), but they do not need to socially distance from the resident.
- If visitors and/or the resident are unvaccinated, everyone will need to wear a tight-fitting mask at all times inside our building, as well as socially distance from the resident.
- This also means that food and drink will not be allowed during inside visits, but they can be enjoyed during outside visits and in accordance with the resident's diet.
- Social distancing is required around all others.
- All visitors must be educated on the core principles of infection prevention prior to their arrival. Visitors may visit our website, scroll to the bottom of the home page to the Family Site and click on the Visitor's Guide. Visitors will be asked, at the health screening machine, to verify they have reviewed it.

## 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:

- Please refer to the visitation procedures above for current information.
- Visitors must follow the core principles of infection prevention during any visit.
- Small group activities, as well as socially distanced larger groups, are occurring on all neighborhoods.
- The resident dining rooms are open with social distancing at this time.
- The Beauty Salon / Barber Shop is open for all residents on all neighborhoods.
- Residents who have had a direct COVID-19 exposure, will have compassionate care visits for 14 days.
- We are working with our pharmacy partners and the Department of Public Health to provide staff and residents with COVID-19 vaccinations, particularly with the recent Governor's order that all unvaccinated nursing home staff must have an approved exemption waiver or receive their first vaccination by September 27.
- A health screening process is in place at our entrance for all essential personnel entering the building and for those who are visiting residents.
- The appropriate 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, when they have visitors in their room, and if engaged with their care team (with the exception of face care, taking medications or eating).
- Internal campaigns and audits for infection control practices 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 order. Fully vaccinated staff are not required to test and unvaccinated staff are testing per the current standards. If we have one positive case (an outbreak), all staff and residents will test once weekly per DPH requirements. We will follow isolating protocols should any resident receive a positive test result and implement additional testing and cohorting strategies.