

September 3, 2021



Dear McLean Patients, Residents, and Families,

As we get ready to enjoy our last “official” weekend of summer and celebrate Labor Day, we would like to take a few minutes to update you and remind you of a few of items.

We continue to keep an eye on the transmission rates and the fluctuating positivity rates in our county and are making changes to PPE usage for staff as appropriate. Attached please find a copy of our mitigating strategies.

The variant strains are highly contagious and we anticipate there may be breakthrough cases within our fully vaccinated residents and staff. As you know, we are working diligently to keep our community healthy. McLean, as well as the Town of Simsbury, has a mask mandate for all people while they are inside our buildings.

We need your support to abide by this mandate. Masks must be worn into the building and at all times while inside our building, even in a private space, and please socially distance from others. This means that food and drink cannot be allowed during inside visits or anywhere in our building, but they can be enjoyed during outside visits and in accordance with the resident’s diet. If you stop at our café, please make your interaction brief and please enjoy your refreshments outside.

We are ready to abide by the Governor’s executive order that all nursing home staff and contractors working inside the health center need to receive their first vaccination by September 7, or they need to have an exemption waiver approved by us. If an exemption is granted, they will need to follow stringent protocols which include them using increased levels of personal protective equipment.

We are monitoring information regarding a potential “booster” vaccine that could be recommended later in September. We will keep you posted.

Our next Family Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15 from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Here is the link for the meeting.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

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

Conference ID: 293 990 335#

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

- 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. Social distancing is required around all others.
- 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. Social distancing is required around all others as well.
- 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.
- 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.

Please note: *If we have an outbreak, compassionate care visits will be arranged through the nursing staff after completing our clinical review. These are for significant changes in condition or end of life.*

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. This includes wearing a mask at all times while inside our health center.
- 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 7.
- 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.