

11/25/2020

Dear Resident, Family Member/Loved One,

First of all Happy Thanksgiving! We wish you all a happy and blessed holiday.

Facility COVID-19 Update:

The CMS Pima county positivity rate is 12.8% and we continue to be in the "red" classification, which means there is SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD WITHIN PIMA COUNTY. All full time staff is currently testing twice a week.

• We have 1 asymptomatic resident on our monitoring unit that tested positive for COVID-19 on 11/25/2020 and has been transferred to an isolation bed at another facility.

The facility continues to be in outbreak status and all indoor and outdoor visits will be put on hold. Compassion, window, and virtual visits will continue by appointment.

Our facility continues to have an adequate supply of PPE, but we are using some of it on a crisis/contingency plan according to CDC and CMS to preserve it. All employees are wearing face masks universally while in the building, and using eye protection whenever a staff member is within 6 feet of a resident or providing direct care. Full isolation including gowns, gloves, masks and eye protection are being used on our monitoring unit and exposed units for direct patient care.

We continue to follow COVID-19 policy and procedures including increased hand hygiene, increased sanitation of high touch surfaces and monitoring of employees, essential visitors, and residents to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We now have **NO** residents in the COVID-19 positive unit that has dedicated staff.

*Our in person visits (both outdoor and indoor) are on hold as we are in outbreak status. When allowed we will allow these visits by appointment. Any visitors that do not adhere to required infection control practices will be asked to leave.

*All visitations will be coordinated by the facility's "Visitation Coordinator." Visitation may be scheduled by calling the Visitation Coordinator at 520-296-6181 Ext. 5033 between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

In light of the increased percent positivity within Pima County, we have completed education with all of our staff to highlight the importance of adhering to infection control and social distancing when in or outside of work.

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CMS has also issued guidance for Nursing homes residents during the holiday season. We will be requiring any residents that leave for non-essential medical visits will have to isolate for 14 days on our monitoring unit if the choose to leave.

CMS Recommendations during the Holiday Season that have been shared with Family, Residents and Staff:

-Limit close contact (maintain physical distancing of six feet or more), keep gatherings as small as possible and use technology to engage with others remotely.

Wear facemask or cloth face coverings at all times (including in cars, homes, restaurants, etc) -Keep safe around food and drinks. Avoid communal serving utensils, passing of food, potluck or buffet style food service, and instead opt for individually prepared plates by a single server. Perform hand hygiene often (e.g., wash hands with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer)

-Avoid large gatherings, crowded areas, and high risk activities such as singing For those attending a gathering, avoid contact with individuals outside of their household for 14 days prior to gathering

-Ask anyone who has signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, to not attend the gathering.

-If possible, conduct gatherings outdoors. Indoor gatherings should have good ventilation, open windows and doors if possible

-Verbally greet others instead of shaking hands or giving hugs. Think ahead how you will manage to prevent physical interactions with loved ones of different ages such as young children.

-Check local conditions and state requirements for precautions and restrictions, including percent positivity rates and quarantine requirements, before crossing state lines.

Arizona has an assistance line for anyone dealing with stress related to COVID-19. Dial 211 or 877-211-8661.

Thank you for your support during this Pandemic.

Any questions please reach out to Social Services or any of our Leadership Team.