



**DEVON GABLES**  
REHABILITATION CENTER

**8/28/2020**

Dear Resident, Family Member/Loved One,

We would like to take a moment to introduce you to, Darunee Armenta better known as “Da”, she is an RN who has worked for Devon Gables over the past 22 years and has been in the role of “Infection Preventionist” over the past 2 years.

Da is certified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a Nursing Home Infection Preventionist. As the IP of Devon Gables, Da is the main point of contact for all infection control related duties. She coordinates our Infection Control Program by communicating with Pima County Health Department, Arizona Department of Health Services and CDC. She is available to answer questions or provide information if needed. She can be reached at 520-904-2306.

**Now for an update on visitation:** Arizona Department of Health Services just put out the new visitation guidelines today; We have provided the link for you to view the guidelines.  
[https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/community/congregate-visitiation.pdf?utm\\_source=TWITTER&utm\\_medium=AZDHS&utm\\_campaign=covid19&utm\\_content=3636832074&linkId=98349542](https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/community/congregate-visitiation.pdf?utm_source=TWITTER&utm_medium=AZDHS&utm_campaign=covid19&utm_content=3636832074&linkId=98349542)

We will be working on our policies and procedures and will have information for you this coming week on or before 9/4/2020.

**New Regulations:** Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced new regulations around testing on 8/26/2020. We will be keeping you informed of the testing now being mandated. It is important to note that Devon Gables was proactive in regards to testing by starting testing early on to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. CMS defines 1 case of COVID-19 as an outbreak, and as such will be expecting us to test all employees and residents weekly or more as indicated by the percentage of COVID-19 cases within Pima County. These tests will continue if an outbreak is identified until no positive COVID-19 cases X 14 days. Our policy is that an employee will be off the schedule if they refuse testing, and if residents exercise their right to not test, we ask that they or you as their representative reach out to our IP to discuss further actions that need to be taken to mitigate the risk of spread of COVID-19 within our facility.

**Facility COVID-19 Update:** We had one formerly negative resident who tested positive for COVID-19 on 8/28/2020 during testing related to recent outbreak as defined by CMS. They were immediately moved to the COVID-19 unit where they will reside for 10 days and 24 hours from symptom cessation if symptoms occur according to the CDC guidelines.



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We continue to screen all employees daily and employees have been informed to report to Infection control Nurse if they have any symptoms during their shift. If any employee reports symptoms they will leave the Facility and follow-up with our Infection Control Nurse for testing and return to work guidelines.

Our facility continues to have an adequate supply of PPE, but we are using 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 those units identified as potential exposed or exposed to COVID-19.

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.

We are testing employees weekly for COVID-19, and will continue weekly. We tested 243 employees this week, and 239 were negative, 1 positive, and 3 pending.

**To review:** We now have 3 residents in the COVID-19 positive unit with dedicated staff on an isolated unit.

We are working hard on quick identification of any COVID-19 cases so that employees can be kept out of work and residents may be placed in appropriate zone for the care that they need.

Thank you for your Support during this Pandemic. I know it has been difficult and we are here to support you and understand how hard it is to not see your loved ones in person.

Sincerely,

Heather Friebus Administrator

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