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IL LIVE 3/16/2021

One year ago, 117 million confirmed cases of Covid-19, approximately 2.6 million deaths around the world, lost jobs, missed school days, skipped medical treatments, different types of holidays, emotional and physical stressors and the feeling that we are having a nightmare and can't wake up. That was the past year...but as I reflect on this past year, I want to REMEMBER. I want to GIVE THANKS to... my fellow co-workers who came to work and was courageous as they stared COVID in the face, the volunteers who were ready and willing to help where-ever needed, the residents who supported us & shared kind words of encouragement and provided donations that resulted in meals/snacks/treats. I want to LOOK FORWARD and get back to who we are and what we do best... Serving our residents and being a premier senior living campus.

Questions and Answers session with IL resident questions:

1. What can we do when we are fully vaccinated (two weeks after second dose)?
  - Visit other vaccinated people indoors (or outdoors) without masks.
  - Visit indoors (or outdoors) with unvaccinated people from a single household with masks and physical distancing, if the unvaccinated people have not had any close contact with someone with covid infection/symptoms in the prior 14 days. Follow core principles of infection control- mask/social distance/hand hygiene
  - Still quarantine if you have a known exposure to a covid-19 positive person or for any international travel.

**Fully vaccinated people still need to:**

- Wear a mask and keep good physical distance around the unvaccinated who are at risk for Covid-19
  - Wear masks and physically distance when visiting unvaccinated people who are from multiple households.
  - Keep physical distanced in public
  - Avoid medium and large sized crowds
  - Avoid poorly ventilated public spaces
  - Wash hand frequently
  - Get tested for Covid-19 if you feel sick.
2. Can you ask the vaccine status of staff? No. Vaccination status is Personal Health Information, and asking if someone has received the vaccine can be a violation of HIPPA.



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We held our final vaccine clinic on March 9<sup>th</sup> and almost 400 doses of the Moderna vaccine were administered. Please remember the CDC's definition of fully vaccinated is two weeks after the second doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. So most of our IL residents will be fully vaccinated March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Brockie Pharmatech has partnered with Homewood at Plum Creek to assist us in being able to administer the Moderna vaccine in groups of 10 (since this is the amount of doses in a vial) on an ongoing basis. So we are organizing these groups for continued administration over our campus.

Even though we have held several vaccination clinics over the entire campus, and are seeing very good vaccination %'s, we are being cautious relaxing our Covid infection control practices. This includes wearing your mask, social distancing and constant hand hygiene. This practice will continue to be expected when in our community center or in any group setting on the campus. We are not out of the woods yet, we need to remain vigilant in the coming months and continue to wear our masks, maintain physical distancing and frequently washing hands until enough people are vaccinated to result in herd immunity. Our vaccine manufacturers are looking at booster trials to address the continually evolving variant strains of the virus.

We continue with our current campus restrictions:

- **Windows Dining room is open with a 50% capacity. This is going very well. Two households can share a table, only if appropriate social distancing can be maintained. We are also trying to accommodate some single residents into groups (limited availability) Curb side pick-up and Delivery is avail. Fireside dining room also has Take-out and Delivery. We are happy to see more people enjoying Windows dining room. We will continue to wave delivery fees through the month of March and plan to re-start meal delivery fees April 1<sup>st</sup>. April 4<sup>th</sup> we plan to increase our capacity to 75% per Governor Wolf's guidance.**
- **Church service in the Omni continues every Sunday at 8:30am with limited attendance. (15). Please call receptionist to sign up. Masks and social distancing will be required.**
- **Fitness Center and pool are open (please make an appointment)**

**Personal Care** We currently **do not** have any PC residents with Covid concerns, however one staff person did test positive after an exposure outside of work. This employee has not worked and it no risk to our campus.

**Health Care:** I am very happy to report that we **do not** have any Covid concerns with any staff or residents in Health Care.

Last week the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its long-awaited visitation guidance update for our Health Care and Personal Care areas. This is due to the number of vaccinations now completed and the declining number of new COVID-19 infections.

Facilities can allow indoor visitation for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission. *Note: compassionate care visits are permitted at all times.*



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CMS notes that outdoor visitation is still preferred when practical, and that facilities should continue to practice the core principles of COVID-19 infection control, including physical distancing and masking. In addition, CMS provides specific guidance on conducting visitation during an outbreak.

We are working to adjust our visitation policies and begin providing safe visits outdoors when possible or indoors in our neutral zones. Contact is acceptable if the resident is fully vaccinated.

The positivity rate for York County continues to decline. Currently it is 6.3% (it was 7.3%).

Please follow the screening guidelines for entering the community center, entering the dining room and attending programs. This is necessary to keep our gatherings safe.

In Gratitude for Military Service, Comcast is offering a \$25.00 Xfinity Coupon. Log into [Xfinity.com/Military](http://Xfinity.com/Military). Fill out the form including your Xfinity account number.

Blessings,

*Karen Coleman, Executive Director*