

## WEEKLY UPDATE

December 2, 2020

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as our weekly update regarding the status of COVID-19 in our facility. Since the onset of this virus in July, we have had 87 residents and 35 staff members test positive for COVID-19.

We continue to test residents and staff in accordance with the New Mexico Department of Health guidelines and the current greater than 10% county positivity rate for Bernalillo County. We also have rapid testing equipment in the facility which allows us to test both residents and staff and obtain COVID-19 results within approximately 15 minutes.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, a federal surveyor representing CMS conducted a COVID-19 focused survey at Spanish Trails to determine if our facility was in compliance with Federal requirements related to implementing proper infection prevention and control practices to prevent the development and transmission of COVID-19. The surveyor spent the entire day at Spanish Trails, reviewing our infection control and COVID-19 procedures, interviewing staff and residents, and touring the facility. At the exit conference at 5:30 pm, the surveyor remarked how hard the staff was working to eradicate COVID-19 and to promote and maintain a clean and safe environment for the residents. I'm pleased to report the facility only received 1 minor deficiency as a result of the survey.

We have also hired a number of new nurses and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) recently and continue to recruit for talented health care professionals to join the Spanish Trails Team.

The Spanish Trails Team continues to keep our residents in communication with their families via regular window visits and video/face time calls with their loved ones. We are making every effort to keep our residents engaged during this 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID-19 and responding to their requests and preferences as timely as possible.

We are working hard to keep everyone in our community safe and will continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility and we screen them for signs and symptoms of illness prior to entering. Our residents are continually monitored and staff is using PPE as recommended by the CDC. Staff is frequently reminded and encouraged to practice social distancing and to use hand sanitizer and frequently wash their hands when they are in the facility and out in the community. We ask them not to report to work if they have symptoms of illness.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at 505-600-4800.

Sincerely,

*Mark McElwee*

Mark McElwee  
Administrator