



## WEEKLY UPDATE

September 23, 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, we have had 56 residents and 20 staff members test positive for COVID-19. ***In the past week we incurred no new positive tests—now four weeks running.*** We are happy to announce that beginning this week the State of New Mexico has reduced our testing regimen to 15% of both residents and staff weekly.

Currently we no longer have anyone on our COVID containment unit or our Step-Down unit and have no positive cases. We have reduced the size of our Containment and Step-Down units due to the decreased need. We continue to be very encouraged by our positive progress and are grateful to our amazing co-workers who have continually provided the utmost care and services to you and/or your loved one.

Presently, we test 15% of employees and residents weekly for COVID-19 as aforementioned. When a resident's lab result returns positive for COVID-19, the individual is moved immediately to our Containment Unit. On the Containment Unit, we have a dedicated team who cares for the residents during their self-isolation stay on the unit. The personal belongings of residents who are moved to the Containment Unit are packed up and placed in a secured, storage pod while the residents complete their recovery.

Once a resident completes the self-isolation stay on the Containment Unit and is no longer showing symptoms of COVID-19, the resident is then transferred to our Step-Down Unit for a period of additional monitoring and observation. After a resident completes the monitoring and observation stay on the Step-Down Unit, we work with the resident to return them to their original nursing unit at Spanish Trails.

Throughout our response to this public health emergency we continue to reach out to families of residents via window visits, Face Time visits, and telephone calls.

Employees who test positive for COVID-19 are immediately removed from the schedule and remain off from work while they recover. Employees are not permitted to return to work until they are symptom-free during their recovery period in accordance with CDC guidelines.

As always, we are working hard to keep everyone in our community safe and we continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Given that only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility, 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,

*Gary Olson*

Gary Olson, Administrator