



## WEEKLY UPDATE

**7-1-2020**

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as Hallmark Healthcare's weekly update to keep you informed about the status of COVID in our facility and what we are doing to keep our residents and staff safe during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

We have concluded our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of COVID-19 testing and the results are as follows:

- We have tested 80 residents, 2 resulted positive, 44 are negative, and 34 results are pending.
- We have tested a total of 109 staff, 4 resulted positive, 103 are negative, and 2 results are pending.

We have moved the residents that are positive for COVID-19 to our isolated, "COVID Positive Unit." The unit is staffed with designated staff that only work on that unit and are not allowed into the normal population of the facility. This unit will be maintained until the facility is deemed COVID free by the local health department. The staff members that are positive are not working and have to meet requirements set forth by DHEC before they can return to work. We have been able to track our positive staff and have determined that they all worked on one common unit and that unit is now quarantined, and we are using designated staff for that unit as well.

Our facility continues to follow the CDC and our local health department's guidance for all appropriate precautions and preventative measures to protect our residents and staff during this pandemic, including visitation recommendations. As such, and in accordance with the guidelines available to us, we are still continuing restrictions on visitation at this time.

We realize how difficult it is not to be able to see your loved ones, and we continue to closely monitor the situation in hopes that we can reopen for visitation soon. However, it is our responsibility to make sure your loved ones are as safe as possible and reopening our facility to visitors too soon could increase our residents' risk of exposure to COVID-19. As such, and for the safety and well-being of our residents, please continue to reach out to your loved ones through phone, FaceTime, letters and e-mail and feel free to contact us directly if you need assistance

facilitating that communication. You may contact the facility and we will make every effort to arrange window visits for you and your loved one.

As a reminder, 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 updates. 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 843-821-5005.

Sincerely,

*Gwendolyn Robinson, LNHA*

Gwendolyn Robinson, LNHA  
Administrator