

Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Homes, Inc.
COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines Notice to Resident and Families

September 30, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

This letter is an update regarding our COVID status. As you may know, both Carbon and Monroe counties are in substantial levels of COVID positivity according to the DOH COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard. Also, we have had 2 recent visitors test positive for COVID and 2 staff members test positive as well. For these reasons, we are experiencing what is considered an outbreak and will implement the following as a response.

- All residents currently on the vitamin regimen recommended by Dr. Varvarelis will receive increased dosing as follows: Vitamin D 5000 IU daily, Zinc 220 mg daily and Vitamin C 1000 mg twice daily. If you have questions or concerns regarding the vitamin supplementation, please direct them to Missy Getz at (610)381-1008 or missy@mrsbushcares.com.
- Baseline COVID testing will be scheduled for all staff and residents on Monday, October 4th in response to the recent exposures. We are working with a lab that will perform all tests on-site.
- Visitation will remain the same with the exception of visitors wearing face coverings when visiting. You may use your own well-fitting mask or surgical masks will be provided at the entrance. We need to stress that visitors screen themselves for **symptoms of illness including fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. DO NOT ENTER if you have any of the above symptoms.** Please use hand sanitizer upon entry. Visits must take place in the residents' room. Remain physically distant from other staff and residents. Only residents in shared rooms may conduct visits in common areas not occupied by other people. There is a maximum of 2 visitors at a time unless visiting outside.
- Visitors with any known close contact COVID exposure must refrain from visiting on-site for a period of 14 days.
- Residents may continue to visit off-site at their own discretion. Masks are available at the exit.
- Residents may use their own discretion in wearing masks inside the facility. If anyone is in need of a mask please ask a staff person or access them at the main entrance.
- Any non-vaccinated residents interested in receiving the COVID vaccine should notify the nursing office. We will try to coordinate on-site vaccinations for anyone interested. For those who have received the Pfizer vaccine, there is a booster available, however, we are not offering them on-site at this time due to the proximity to receiving the flu vaccine (October 5th). A majority of our residents received the Moderna vaccine and we are awaiting information on that booster which has not yet been approved.

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- Any residents that present with symptoms will be immediately placed on room isolation until evaluated by nursing staff and the physician is consulted for further direction. Staff have been directed to place a container holding PPE and a trash receptacle outside the residents' room so staff may wear appropriate PPE for resident care and dispose of it upon leaving room. Visitation will not be permitted until a negative COVID test is received or the resident is free of symptoms and the quarantine period is complete, whichever is first. Visits can be done virtually or resident may have a compassionate care visit, if necessary.

Out of our current 69 personal care and independent living residents we have a 94% vaccination rate. We are hopeful the vaccine and vitamin prophylaxis protects our population but with less than 100% vaccine efficacy and variants of the virus evolving we feel we should proceed with caution. Those not fully vaccinated or not vaccinated at all should be aware of the risk of illness. On that note, we will be following up shortly to everyone with a pandemic acknowledgement, release from liability document. Our general liability insurance carrier has strongly advised that we implement this waiver. The purpose is to make each resident or authorized representative fully aware of the inherent risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and communicable disease and the inability of the facility to eliminate or fully control such risks.

Our hope is to maintain a safe working and living environment for everyone and also to be able to continue to have a sense of normalcy for our residents. We are highly concerned for the mental health and well-being after what we experienced in quarantine last year. We hope to strike a sensible balance between the CDC guidance and normalcy for everyone which would include continued in-person visitation, social programs and communal dining. We are working to make decisions about our protocol that fit our setting and the wishes of those that live here. Do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

Jessica Scheffner, RN, Administrator
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