



January 12, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

I hope this finds you all healthy and enjoying the sunshine we have been blessed with this week.

Our Blair County positivity rate has decreased from 12.3 % to 10.2 %. This is very encouraging and we anticipate this decrease to continue.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has posted the COVID-19 vaccination plan and phases. We are currently in phase 1A which includes all health care workers, residents in nursing homes and personal care homes. Phase 1B will follow and includes people ages 75 and older, people in congregate settings not otherwise specified as long term care, and persons receiving home and community-based services. We have not been informed of distribution specifics for phase 1B but will keep you informed as we learn more.

All veterans are currently eligible to receive the vaccine through the VA Hospital in Altoona. For details, contact the VA Hospital at 814-943-8164.

I share with you below a brief update of the recent COVID activity for each level of care on our campus.

Health Care Center

Springfield: One resident who tested positive for the virus last week is currently receiving care in a designated COVID-19 care area. The resident is experiencing mild symptoms at this time and is expected to recover early next week.

We have one coworker who had previously tested positive who remains asymptomatic while isolating at home.

Our mitigation strategies continue with strict infection control precautions and testing of all residents and coworkers.

Countryside: Two residents who tested positive for the virus last week are being cared for in a designated COVID-19 care area. They are both experiencing mild symptoms at this time and are expected to recover early next week.

Two coworkers who tested positive for the virus last week are currently isolating at home. Both had only mild symptoms and are expected to recover within the week.

Mitigation actions continue and include testing of all residents and coworkers and strict infection control precautions. As of today, there have been no new cases identified through our testing on this unit.

Tenley: One resident who tested positive for the virus last week is currently being cared for in our designated COVID-19 care area. The resident is displaying mild symptoms at this time and is expected to recover early next week.

The coworker who had previously tested positive has recovered.

Waterside Personal Care: Two residents who were identified as positive for COVID-19 last week are currently being cared for in a designated COVID-19 care area. They are displaying mild symptoms at this time and are expected to recover early next week.

Three coworkers were identified as positive for the virus through our surveillance testing. They are all isolating at home and expected to return next week.

Mitigation actions continue with strict infection control precautions in place and twice weekly testing of all residents and coworkers. The unit will remain on isolation precautions until 14 days have passed with no new positive cases.

We are monitoring the situation closely and will keep you informed.

Assisted Lifestyles

I am happy to report that we continue to have no active cases in residents or coworkers.

Independent Living

A resident who had contracted the virus last week is currently being cared for in a designated COVID-19 care area and is expected to recover early next week.

Two coworkers that have tested positive for the virus are currently isolating at home. Both are experiencing mild symptoms and are expected to recover early next week.

I pray that with the decrease in our county positivity rates and the implementation of the vaccination process, we will begin to see a decrease in cases.

I thank you all for your continued prayers and support!

Lisa Defibaugh, Executive Director