



COVID-19 Update – NO New Cases May 22, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff,

We are very pleased to announce another week with no positive COVID-19 cases at Oak Hill and Magnolia Terrace. Of the three staff that previously tested positive, the last date that an employee was at Oak Hill before testing positive was April 26. This is almost a month ago and far past the time that symptoms should have presented if the virus had spread. We currently do not have any positive COVID-19 cases or residents displaying symptoms of the virus.

On May 18, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced new phased reopening guidance for state and local officials to ensure the safe reopening of nursing homes across the country. The CMS guidance details critical steps nursing homes and communities should take prior to relaxing restrictions implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including rigorous infection prevention and control, adequate testing, and surveillance. This guidance is cross-walked to the White House's "Opening Up America Again" guidelines. Nursing homes will remain in the current state of highest mitigation while the surrounding community is in phase 1 of "Opening Up". We will spend a minimum of 14 days in each phase prior to advancing to the next phase.

Given the critical importance in limiting COVID-19 exposure in nursing homes, decisions on relaxing restrictions will be made with careful review of the following factors including the number of cases in the community; adequate staffing; access to adequate testing; ability to provide masks; access to the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff; and the capacity of our local hospitals.

We will proceed with extreme caution. CMS Administrator, Seema Verma, said, "Now, the time has come to prepare for what eventually will allow visitors to return to facilities with precautions like mandatory face coverings for all entering the building as well as face coverings for residents and thorough screening of all residents and visitors".

CMS states that no restrictions should be relaxed until all residents and staff have been tested to establish a baseline. Even as the local community starts to relax restrictions, Oak Hill will be among the last to open.

Oak Hill will be working with the local health department as well as IDPH and CMS to comply with recommendations and guidance to safely relax restrictions currently in place. As stated above, the first step is testing for everyone. We will keep in contact to let you know as soon as possible when this testing will be completed. As always, please call if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kim Keckritz
Administrator