



COVID-19 UPDATE

AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff

Thursday, September 10, 2020

While research and development of vaccines to prevent COVID-19 continues at breakneck speed at dozens of pharmaceutical companies and research institutions worldwide, the development of new therapies and drugs to treat those who have the disease is, by appearances perhaps, lagging behind.

First, it is important to note that no treatment or therapeutic drug has been fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use with COVID-19 patients. As shared in past Covid-19 Updates, the antiviral drug Remdesivir is being administered to some patients through clinical trials and under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and it is demonstrating some benefit to the patients receiving it, including shorter recovery times.

Conversely, the benefits of convalescent plasma, which recently received an EUA from the FDA, are still being weighed. Convalescent plasma, which is taken from the blood of individuals who have coronavirus antibodies, is then processed and transfused into COVID-19 patients to boost the level of antibodies produced by their own immune systems. The research is in an early stage and the results are not yet conclusive. Research on other antibody treatments is also underway, including Regeneron, but concerns exist that replicating and manufacturing these treatments at the scale needed will be challenging.

In addition, research is also underway on the use of existing anti-inflammatory medications as treatment for the severe respiratory effects some COVID-19 patients experience. Even though this research is also in an early stage, anti-inflammatories seem to be lessening the effects of the virus and shortening the duration of illness.

The public health and medical practitioner communities seem united in their hope that more effort and investment will be directed toward developing therapies that improve outcomes for individuals experiencing COVID-19's most severe effects. While vaccines offering even partial immunity are critical, individuals who are not in the highest priority group to receive a new vaccine - or those who choose not to be vaccinated - will continue to be at considerable

risk if they are infected with the coronavirus. As a result, the sooner we have proven treatments ready to administer, the better for all.

Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of: 9/10/20

No Cases*

* Please click [here](#) to read the 9/8/20 Update that explains The Pines' listing on the current NC DHHS COVID-19 Ongoing Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings Report.

The Pines' nursing and assisted living wings (including memory care) are licensed by North Carolina as a "combination facility" and therefore bound by specific rules and regulations. Because The Pines is currently listed on the DHHS report noted above, it cannot provide routine outdoor visits for its Nursing/Assisted Living residents. In spite of the current restriction, some exceptions may be allowed, but just for end-of-life circumstances and special care needs certified by a physician. Outdoor visits for Nursing/Assisted Living residents at The Pines could resume as soon as September 27th, if there are no additional test results positive for coronavirus. At that future time, outdoor visits may be scheduled in advance with the Health Care Activities Department at 704-896-1499.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Absentee Ballot Witness Information

A resident recently asked if a fellow resident could sign as a witness for an absentee ballot. We believe that is the case given the following information provided by the North Carolina Board of Elections:

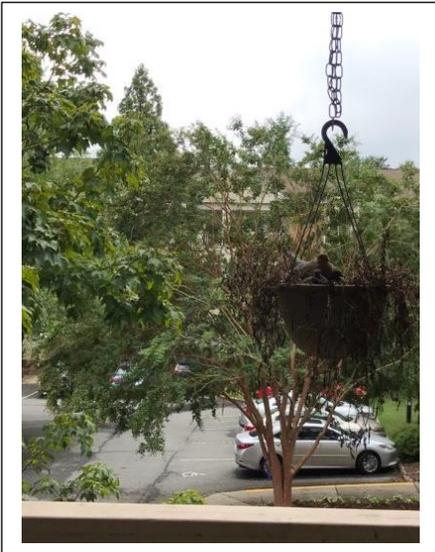
Who is not allowed to serve as a witness to an absentee ballot?

Individuals **prohibited** from witnessing an absentee ballot include:

- A person younger than 18.
- A candidate for election, unless the candidate is the voter's near relative.
- If the voter is a patient or resident at a hospital, clinic, nursing home, or adult care home, the following individuals are also prohibited from assisting:
 - an owner, manager, director, or employee of that facility; an individual who holds any elected federal, state or local office or precinct political party or organization office; or a campaign manager or treasurer for any candidate or political party.

Balcony House Guests

Jane Cobb shared these photos of a mourning dove and her two squabs. The third photo is of the squabs out of their nest.



Waited Service Dining

The Culinary Services Department will soon provide reservation and other information about limited waited service dining, which will resume for weekday dinners beginning next Monday, September 14th.

Outdoor Visiting Stations for Independent Living

A memo being sent to IL residents from Stephanie Clontz, Director of Residents Services, describes the procedures for outdoor family/friend visits in designated areas outside of the community center. Up to three separate visits can be accommodated during each 45-minute time slot. Visit times can be reserved through Signup Genius. Visitors will complete a pre-visit symptom screening and temperature check at Screening Station #2 in the Health Center entrance lobby. If you have any questions, please email Stephanie at sclontz@thepinesatdavidson.org or call 704-896-1454.

Sage Advice

Jennie Clifton shared this country music video sung by Toby Keith, which offers a soulful perspective on staying young. This video features clips from the 2019 film, *The Mule*, with Clint Eastwood - at age 88 - in the leading role. To view, click here: [Video](#)

Closing Images

Priscilla Perkins shares these photos of a spider, with its mosaic-like design, taken by her sister who lives in Fort Mill, SC. It is a great time of year to marvel at spiders and the beautiful webs they create.

