



**COVID-19 UPDATE**  
**AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION**

***For Residents, Family Members, and Staff***  
**Thursday, September 3, 2020**

The staff member reported as “positive” for coronavirus in our Tuesday Update (9/3/20) was retested and the result was “non-detect.” Thus, we have taken this person off of our Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases chart below.

The Pines may appear in tomorrow’s NC Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) COVID-19 Ongoing Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings Report as having two active cases. This is due to the COVID-19 case we reported to DHHS last Tuesday (which is now revised) as well as the case listed in our 8/20/20 Update, which was also subsequently revised (in our 8/25/20 Update). In this earlier case, the staff member also had a “non-detect” result when retested for coronavirus. The Pines is seeking to have DHHS address this reporting disparity.

**Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of: 9/3/20**  
Health Center Staff: 0 Cases\*

\*Please see note above.

**VACCINE DEVELOPMENTS**

In recent weeks, the news pace of coronavirus vaccine development escalated considerably. Here’s a brief snapshot:

**Vaccine research advancement**

Three companies and their research partners – **Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech** (based in Germany) and **AstraZeneca/University of Oxford** (based in the UK) – are now in Phase 3 trials in which they are testing the effectiveness of their candidate vaccine with human subjects. While the specific approach of each of these candidate vaccines varies, they are all reporting

to stimulate the production of sufficient antibodies to block coronavirus from spreading through the body, and the Pfizer candidate is also stimulating the creation of T-cells which help our immune systems “remember” that they should block the virus.

- Thousands of individuals, including in the U.S., are being recruited to participate in Phase 3 trials. Moderna is also actively recruiting older adults to participate to ensure the safety and effectiveness of its candidate vaccine for this particularly vulnerable population.
- All three companies hope to have their vaccines ready for final, expedited FDA review by early November. However, public health officials confirm there is no certainty in this timeline. Much examination by the FDA and its advisory groups must occur before a vaccine can be “stamped” for approval and production.
- Both intramuscular shots in the upper arm (typical of most other vaccines) and a nasal spray version are being tested at this time. There is also likelihood that two doses of vaccine would be needed to achieve immunity.

### **Prioritization and availability of vaccination doses**

Development of safe and effective coronavirus vaccines is just the first critical step. Production and equitable distribution of several hundred million of doses needed for our U.S. population and the billions needed for our global population is another significant aspect of the vaccine effort which has recently gotten widespread attention.

- Just yesterday (September 2), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a letter advising all states to prepare their state’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan for readiness by the end of October/early November. The CDC does not promise a vaccine will be approved or available by then, but it does encourage states to be prepared.
- The National Academy of Sciences is seeking public comment on its draft report issued this week which details a four-phased vaccine distribution effort that prioritizes key population groups and the order in which they would receive vaccine doses. The Pines leadership team is very pleased to see that healthcare workers and first responders are included in the highest priority group to receive available doses, and vulnerable populations, including older adults living in long-term care settings, are among the second priority group.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Aquesta Bank**

The Pines is finalizing its lease agreement with Aquesta so that it can provide on-site banking services for residents. Fifth Third Bank will not be vacating The Pines, however, until early October in order to comply with state regulations regarding the closing of safety deposit boxes located in this office.

In anticipation of our new arrangement with Aquesta, some residents have already set up Aquesta bank accounts. If you wish to contact Aquesta, please call Leigh Wolff (704-439-4354) or Julie Brown (704-439-4339).

### **Visitor Stations**

Recent rains caused a delay in The Pines' ability prepare the areas that will serve as visitor stations. Today was sunny, however, and so Rodgers was able to pour the concrete needed to create these spaces. Up to 3 resident households at a time will be able to have separate meetings with visitors in these designated areas. Guidelines for scheduling these visitation times will be provided soon by the Resident Services Department.

### **A Limerick for Our Times**

Last Tuesday's Update inspired a resident to share the following delightful limerick:

There was an old lady who knew  
That she didn't want to catch the flu.  
So she stayed at The Pines  
Biding her time  
Visiting only her fellow Pines crew!

### **Closing Images**

A resident sent us this lovely image of a hibiscus bloom from Ellen Eller's patio. And Bill Reinke shared this photo of a praying mantis at his window.

