



## COVID-19 UPDATE

*For Residents, Family Members, and Staff*

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**

The Pines learned this morning that a resident in our Nursing Wing tested positive for COVID-19. This individual has no symptoms and will be transferred to the specialized COVID-19 unit at Huntersville Oaks today. The resident's family has been notified of this individual's condition.

Since our last Update, the State of North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services has issued new guidelines for clinicians and laboratories with respect to COVID-19 testing. We will be consulting with our medical team over the next several days to determine its practical applications at The Pines.

Residents have asked if they could know the names or departments of non-Health Care staff who tested positive for COVID-19 to determine if they (residents) may have had close contact with these staff members. As we shared earlier, privacy rules do not allow for us to share names or department information. However, Independent Living residents who believe they may have had "close contact" with ANY staff member over the last two weeks are encouraged to contact their primary care providers to discuss COVID-19 testing.

"Close contact" is defined by the CDC as: "someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset." If you believe you were in close contact with ANY staff member (within 6 feet of this person for 15 minutes or more), please contact your primary care provider to discuss COVID-19 testing. *We believe that no resident or staff member should have had this type of **close contact** in independent living settings, but inadvertently, if they did, we encourage that resident or staff member to contact their primary care provider.*

And as we described in an earlier Update: Dr. Deanna Mangieri and Kirsten Presby, N.P. are available for consultations with residents enrolled in The Pines' *Senior Care* program. If a test is indicated, Kirsten could come to a resident's home to administer the test on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. On other days, drive-by testing sites are available or the resident can arrange with *Senior Care* to have a *Healthy at Home* staff member come to their residence to administer the test. Residents not enrolled in *Senior Care* are encouraged to contact their

primary care provider to discuss whether a test is warranted and what testing option is most appropriate, such as a drive-by test or a home visit from *Healthy at Home*.

This additional resident case of COVID-19 was detected through a second round of surveillance testing this week of the 39 residents in the Nursing Wing. The remaining 38 of these residents tested negative. Again, there were no symptoms noted for the resident who tested positive for COVID-19, and the presence of the virus was detected through our clinically-driven surveillance testing. This best practice will be reviewed with our clinical advisors in light of new guidelines just recently announced. As has been the case throughout our history, and particularly during this historic pandemic, The Pines will adjust its protocols based on the best clinical advice available at the time. Transparency with residents, residents' families, staff, and other constituencies will remain a consistent focus. Whenever there are inadvertent lapses in transparency, we will correct them promptly, whenever they are noted.

**New COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (5/17/20)**

Health Center Residents: 1 case

**Cumulative COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (5/17/20)**

Health Center Residents: 7 cases\*

Health Center Staff: 3 cases

Non-Health Center Staff: 3 cases

\*Includes today's new case

