



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

As business and community services outside of The Pines continue to reopen in phases, residents have, understandably, raised questions about our plans to “reopen” our campus and to bring back more activities. We hope the explanation of our approach to reopening that follows will help put these questions into better perspective.

Most importantly, the health and safety of our residents and staff has been - and will continue to be - our highest priority. This is our operating philosophy, our responsibility and our obligation to you. There is no equivocating.

To successfully address that priority, The Pines is taking a measured, thoughtful and phased approach to considering each opportunity to renew activities that were suspended in early March. We are not interested in being “first out of the gate” as we look at peer communities that may have stepped too early. The Pines will never be an early adopter of changes that potentially put health and safety at risk. Instead, we learn from peer communities – other CCRCs like The Pines – so that we are in tune to best practices and corresponding incremental successes and we can then apply that learning to our unique environment. We believe this careful and well-considered approach is what you expect of us.

Many peer communities across the country are examining these same questions and assessing the status of the evolving virus in their areas. One constant among CCRCs seems to be agreement on the need for more testing, and specifically, more effective approaches to testing among older adults and older adult communities. Without improved testing and tracking programs, many CCRC communities believe broad-based reopening adds significantly to the risk of COVID-19 spread. In addition, spikes in confirmed cases are occurring around the country in states that allowed phased reopening earlier than North Carolina, including California, Texas, Florida and Massachusetts, among others.

Here in Mecklenburg County – now considered a COVID-19 “hot spot” - the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to rise. Some of that increase can likely be attributed to increased diagnostic testing in our area, but there has also been a marked increase in the

number of hospitalizations locally as well. That one statistic should send off alarm bells with all of us! It is not a number we want to see rising.

Are these increases due to reopening activities around the state? Are too many people congregating without wearing face masks or practicing safe distancing and good hygiene? It is still far too early in various reopening phases to be able to provide definitive answers. Suffice it to say, The Pines will do all that it can to keep our residents and staff from becoming a part of those upward-trending statistics. Again, that is **JOB #1** for this team!!

As we have shared in recent UPDATES, The Pines is eager to bring activities back to our campus that were suspended over the past three months, and we view this as our Pines community “recovery.” Each positive step will likely lead to more positive steps. That said, forethought in planning, followed by careful evaluation on the back end will serve as our guide with each new opportunity considered. And any outcomes in the wrong direction may, by necessity, suspend our consideration of additional activities, or even cause us to step back.

If the last three months of collective experience with COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that the health and safety of our residents and staff is a shared responsibility that extends on our campus and off. We are committed to that being our highest priority. We are grateful to all of you for continuing to do your part in keeping our community safe as well.

No New COVID-19 Cases

Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of 6/3/20

Health Center Residents:	4 cases
Health Center Staff:	2 cases
Non-Health Center Staff:	2 cases

Helpful Information

Construction Corner

Rodgers Builders are continuing to make great progress in all areas of campus. Click here to read their latest report: [Rodgers](#).

- New Nursing Wing: preparations are being made for permanent power and conditioned air; drywall finishing continues on the 2nd floor; prime painting of the first floor is underway as well.
- Fitness Center: skylight framing has begun; sheathing/air barrier of the exterior wall is being installed.
- New Davidson Room: the weather barrier installation is continuing; the brick veneer and remaining trusses installation continues.

Photos (from left): new Nursing Wing porch, Fitness Center/Rooftop Terrace, new Davidson Room



Closing Images: Gardenia and Morning Glory (in a staff member's garden)

