



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff

Friday, June 5, 2020

Today, we share with you an updated protocol for residents leaving The Pines for urgent and medical services:

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, The Pines took quick action in March to gain control over who was entering and leaving the campus by vehicle. Residents were advised that the only appropriate purpose to leave campus was for urgent and necessary medical services. Residents with such a purpose were asked to confer with nursing, providing information regarding the off-site visit including the date and time. The staff gatekeepers were provided this information to be aware that the resident was leaving and that nursing had reviewed the purpose. Any resident returning to campus, whether from a nursing-reviewed trip or other, was asked to self-quarantine and self-monitor for at least 14 days and to inform nursing staff about any symptoms. To alert staff who may need to enter a residence about a quarantine situation, a sticker was placed on the outside doorframe of the residence. At residents' request, red dot stickers used initially were replaced with more attractive white and yellow flower stickers.

Having postponed medical appointments from mid-March through May, there was considerable pent-up demand among residents to return to more accessible medical treatment. Following North Carolina's May 22nd transition to the modified Phase 2 of re-opening, we experienced a dramatic surge in residents leaving campus for urgent and necessary medical purposes, taxing our existing protocols and creating frustration for residents and staff alike.

As a result, The Pines is revising its protocol effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020. Residents leaving campus by vehicle for part of a day will no longer be asked to have nursing staff review their need in advance. Nursing staff will still be available for consultation if a resident is concerned about leaving campus, and is uncertain whether a particular need is truly urgent and necessary, could be met in another way, or could possibly be postponed. Nursing staff will not interfere in a resident's relationship with their primary care provider.

Now when residents leave campus, we ask that they stop for our staff gatekeeper, identify themselves by name and residence number, their anticipated return time and, *if they choose to*, share their purpose for leaving campus - all of which will be kept confidential. Upon return, residents are asked to again stop for the gatekeeper, and identify themselves and the approximate time they left campus, so a return can easily be matched with a departure. These returning residents are still expected to self-quarantine for at least the next 14 days.

In keeping with existing policy, residents planning to be away from The Pines overnight or longer, are asked to notify the Reception Desk in advance of their departure, and include an anticipated date of return. Upon returning, the gatekeeping process above will occur, and the resident(s) will self-quarantine and self-monitor for at least 14-days.

One additional change in our protocol is to eliminate the need for a 14-day self-quarantine following an off-site medical appointment *for which a resident uses The Pines' medical transportation service*. The involvement of Pines' staff with such visits greatly increases our assurance that the opportunity for contact with an infected individual is minimized during the resident's time off campus.

Residents are again encouraged to maintain a daily journal or log of any contact they have with other individuals at The Pines, but especially with anybody when a resident is off campus. This information may prove useful at a future time when an infected individual is identified and public health authorities or staff pursue contact tracing. Having a daily record will likely be much more effective than re-constructing this information many days after the fact.

These changes in protocol do not in any way change the conditions of any federal, state, county or town mandate or guideline, nor do they change the perspective and recommendation of The Pines' management. In light of every resident being at "high risk" if contracting coronavirus, The Pines maintains a very strong belief that our campus is a much safer place to be at this time than most other locations in nearby communities. The trends of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and new hospitalizations in the county and statewide indicate **active spread** of the virus, and increased likelihood of additional transmission. SARS-CoV2, the coronavirus which causes COVID-19, is widely known to be highly contagious, and often transmitted by individuals who have no symptoms and do not know that they are infected. Now, more than ever, we advise residents to make the wisest choice in each situation that will assure not just their own personal protection, but the protection of all other members of The Pines community. In addition to adhering to the protective practices North Carolina dubs "the three W's," a reasonable perspective to adopt during this time would be that any other individual with whom one comes into contact is infected with coronavirus. As is the case with most viruses, we believe it is better to be safe, than to be sorry.

1 New COVID-19 Case

Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of 6/5/20

Health Center Residents:	5 cases*
Health Center Staff:	2 cases
Non-Health Center Staff:	3 cases

*one individual, after having been negative, retested positive

Helpful Information

Art Crawl

We hope you received the recent invitation to attend an upcoming Outdoor Art Crawl at The Pines on Tuesday, June 23rd. We invite everyone to stroll through the booths enjoying the Arts while having fellowship with your neighbors. The flyer included an application for artists interested in participating. Please contact Katie McCloy #229 or John Griffith #401 with questions.

Tuesday/Thursday COVID-19 Update Format

We are delighted that the Weekly Activity Bulletin is back! Beginning next week, our COVID-19 Update will be distributed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A special edition of the Update will be distributed on other days if there is a need to share important information.

Closing Images: Dahlias (from a staff member's garden)

