



COVID-19 UPDATE
AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff
Thursday, August 20, 2020

We learned through our regular bi-weekly surveillance testing that a Health Center staff member tested positive for Coronavirus. This individual still has no symptoms, is isolated away from The Pines, and is receiving medical attention. We are also doing contact tracing and will continue to monitor this situation closely.

Last week, we received test results for all Health Center residents (Nursing, Purcell, and Assisted Living wings), and all had “non-detect” results. Today we began obtaining specimens from all Health Center residents for the next round of resident testing.

New COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of: 8/20/20

Health Center staff: 1 case

Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of: 8/20/20

Health Center staff: 1 case

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Self-Quarantine Safety Considerations

As we shared in Tuesday’s *Update*, a recent review of our current policies with medical professionals including members of our Board, led to a discussion on how to lessen the burdens of quarantine through improved on-campus services and activities for those under quarantine restrictions. The Pines is moving quickly to institute more opportunities for the group of residents in self-quarantine to participate in activities and enjoy amenities available to residents who have not traveled off-campus. Special dining seating times, fitness classes and pool times, as well as other activities are being planned to accommodate those in the

quarantined group. This way, the burden of being especially cautious for the sake of others in the community, will hopefully be less heavy. We are committed to making the experience of staying on campus equitable for all residents as much as prudent safety precautions will allow.

We are continuing to explore ways, with resident participation, that we can make life at The Pines during this very difficult pandemic safe, fulfilling and even, enjoyable! And we have good news to share! Here are some specific activities we will soon be rolling out:

- **Waited Service Dining:** In early September, the renovated and expanded (Phase Two) dining room will be opened for two dinner seatings for Independent Living residents: a 4:30pm seating for residents not on quarantine ("*Group 1*") and a 6:30pm seating for residents who are on quarantine ("*Group 2*"). Our dining and culinary team will be sharing more information with you soon - including the reservations process - regarding this wonderful return of a beloved feature of life at The Pines.
- **Independent Living Visitors Area:** A site is being finalized near the Community Center's front entrance where Independent Living residents can arrange to sit and visit safely with a family member or off-campus friend. More details will be coming soon.
- **Beauty/Barber Shop:** Please see the next page for an update about on-campus hair care services that will be available for all residents, including those on quarantine.
- **Fitness Classes/Pool Times** – The *Activity Bulletin* will provide more information about classes and lap pool times for all Independent Living residents, including those on self-quarantine.
- **Outdoor Entertainment** – An outdoor concert and other small group entertainment activities are currently being scheduled that will include times for all Independent Living residents, including times for those under self-quarantine, to enjoy.

We need to note that should COVID-19 cases appear among Independent Living residents, we may have to temporarily roll back some of these expanded services.

The Pines continues to thoughtfully consider the suggestions and concerns voiced by some residents related to its 14-day self-quarantine policy, which currently applies to all independent travel by residents to an off-campus site. Mindful of the sharp and troubling rise in COVID-19 cases in the immediate region, The Pines also consults with medical experts with close ties to The Pines regarding its safety guidelines. As you may know from news stories, Mecklenburg County was recently characterized as "critical" with respect to the county's COVID-19 risk. At this time, due to the significant presence of COVID-19 in the area, The Pines will not be modifying its 14-day quarantine policy. This policy is a responsible and necessary practice that contributes to the overall health and safety of our community.

We know that this is disappointing news to those of you who would like to see some loosening of self-quarantine protocols now. The desire to travel off campus without the expectation to self-quarantine upon return is understandable. And we are cognizant and concerned about the

impact on mental wellbeing of residents who feel confined to campus. We are eager for the health risks outside The Pines campus to decline sufficiently so that we can reasonably revisit the expectations currently in place for residents leaving campus.

We want to thank residents for actively engaging in this ongoing conversation and for providing their candid and frequent input on all aspects of our response to the pandemic. Please continue to do so. We also plan to send a survey in the coming weeks to give all residents an opportunity to share their individual perspectives on our services, activities, and safety policies. We look forward to engaging together to create a pleasant and safe environment for all to enjoy.

Beauty/Barber Services Update

In addition to recently resuming services for Schramm Health Center residents, we are now looking forward to offering hair services for Independent Living residents. Nolena will offer services to residents in the apartment building, and Tammy will provide services to cottage and villa residents. Both beauticians will plan to provide services on the patios or balconies of a residence until we can establish another outdoor location as an option. Residents who previously expressed interest in services can expect to receive a phone call – as early as next week - from a beautician to schedule an appointment. If you decide you would like services, simply call Resident Services Director Stephanie Clontz (ext. 1454) to be added to the list.

Closing Images

Thank you, Art Englebardt, for sharing these lovely photos of a hummingbird. They capture the delightful flight of these special creatures, backed by the lushness of a beautiful young pine tree.

