



COVID-19 UPDATE

AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

New Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (1/13/2021)

Health Center Residents: 4 cases

Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (1/13/2021) *

Health Center Resident: 5 Cases

Health Center Staff: 1 Case

Non-Health Center Staff: 2 Cases

** Numbers may change from those listed in a previous Update for reasons that include: the result of an individual's second test was 'non-detect' or the individual has recovered and met return-to-work requirements. The Pines is following CDC guidelines as to what*

A Note from Heather McKee, Interim President/CEO and Executive Director

I have both concerning news to report and two hopeful developments to share with you.

As result of our twice weekly surveillance testing in the Health Center wing, we learned today that four additional Health Center residents tested positive for COVID-19.

Management is in the process of isolating these individuals to help diminish the risk of spread and to provide for the special care they may need in the days ahead. These residents are being transferred this afternoon to the 12-room nursing wing that was taken out of service after the opening of the new nursing 2-story wing. The Pines received permission under the recent Governor's Special Orders to use these rooms temporarily. This reopened special wing will have separate outdoor entrance and exit doors for staff and residents and no traffic will occur between this special wing and the other nursing wings.

As you know, COVID-19 is at its highest levels in our region since the start of this pandemic, with a positivity rate of 15.6% in Mecklenburg County as per CMS's (Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid) most recent 1/5/2021 report. We urge residents and staff to stay vigilant in their safety practices at this particularly vulnerable time.

I am pleased to announce, after diligent efforts by The Pines leadership, elected officials, and LeadingAgeNC, The Pines' Federal Pharmacy Partner for 1a COVID-19 onsite vaccinations clinics, Omnicare/CVS, has been directed by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to provide some vaccines to Independent Living residents. Currently, senior national executives at Omnicare/CVS are working to secure as many doses as possible and to schedule clinics dates at The Pines that meet the vaccine manufacturer recommended time between doses.

Federal Pharmaceutical Partners such as Omnicare/CVS, as well as health systems like Atrium and Novant are confronting supply, staffing, distribution, and scheduling challenges that impact the ability to distribute and administer the vaccines. These supply difficulties stem from state and federal distribution issues, as detailed in yesterday's *Charlotte Observer*: [Vaccine Supply Bottleneck](#) and in today's *Charlotte Observer*: [NC Could Expand COVID Vaccine Eligibility](#). The second article notes that states such as North Carolina (that have not administered a significant percentage of the vaccine doses that they already received) could receive fewer doses in the future. These are among the greatest challenges The Pines currently faces: a supply and distribution system that it does not control.

Given supply constraints and the imperative to vaccinate Health Center residents and staff as quickly as possible, The Pines will prioritize administration of ONSITE vaccines to those Independent Living residents whose advanced age and/or health conditions place them at greatest risk from exposure to or complications from COVID-19. These residents will be contacted by staff regarding the information that they will need to prepare, which include copies of medical and prescription cards as well as consent forms that will need to be signed.

We continue to ask all Independent Living residents who are able to travel off campus (either on their own or with the help of a family member or friend) to make arrangements through their medical provider or the County to get vaccinated at one of the vaccination clinics in this region. For those residents who are unable to drive, The Pines will continue to provide transportation to vaccination clinics in the nearby area. Please call Margo Caldwell at ext. 1467 or Stephanie Clontz at ext. 1454 to let The Pines know if you have received a first dose vaccination off-site. This will help The Pines greatly with its vaccination planning for those residents unable to travel offsite.

Some residents who have been vaccinated offsite have asked if they need to continue to be under quarantine status. The answer is yes – individuals who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 can still spread the virus as asymptomatic carriers. Also, the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two doses to be effective, so we ask that residents to still exercise caution even if they have had a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

While we are making progress on the vaccine front, it is clear by every objective measure we are in the midst of a very serious resurgence of the COVID-19 virus. The State of North Carolina and Mecklenburg County have both issued urgent calls to all citizens to stay at home except for essential travel, i.e. vaccination appointments, and to strictly adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions. It may take many months for the vaccines to effectively lessen the spread of the virus. As such, we are grateful for your vigilance and continuing patience. The Pines is a strong, resilient community and we will meet this challenge together.

I end with additional good news on the horizon: due to remarkable support from generous donors, our Chaplaincy Fund is *very* close to realizing the minimum needed to launch a part-time (initially) Chaplaincy position. Residents, directors, family members and staff have contributed a total of \$112,000.00 of the \$110,000.00 needed to establish this position. We are grateful to the Residents' Association for its endorsement and contributions to this important initiative.

As you may know, it was the Resident Association's Support and Spiritual Concerns Committee that began this effort to raise funds for the hiring of an ecumenical chaplain. This staff addition would help meet the spiritual and counseling needs of The Pines' community, which have grown considerably during these challenging times. If you would like to learn more or support this effort, please click the following link: [Chaplaincy Fund](#). Again, we thank the many individuals who are committed to establishing this Chaplaincy position and are looking forward to realizing this valuable staff addition for our Pines' community.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Virtual Concert Featuring Cynthia and Bill Lawing

Earl Edmondson shares the following information about an upcoming concert:

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, Music at St. Alban's (Davidson), in collaboration with WDAV classical radio (89.9), will present a virtual concert offered to all without charge. The performers are the well-known husband and wife duo, Cynthia Lawing, piano, and William Lawing, trumpet. William holds a named chair as professor in the music at Davidson College, conducts the College's jazz ensemble and other wind groups, and is a member of the Western Piedmont Symphony Orchestra; Cynthia has long served as artist associate in piano at the College.



Each has an impressive resumé as soloist and as member of small ensembles and orchestras. They have performed in many parts of this country and abroad, most notably in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Chile, and Europe. For this concert they present an appealing program of music spanning four centuries, including works by Scarlatti, Ravel, Ginastera, and others.

To hear this engaging performance, go to

- M@SA's website at www.musicatstalbansdavidson.org or to
- M@SA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/musicatstalbans/>

You may also check out WDAV's Piedmont Arts Podcast to hear Rachel Stewart's interview with the Lawings the week of February 15th <https://www.wdav.org>. This project is made possible, in part, with funding from the ASC. M@SA is a 501[c]3 non-profit organization.

Closing Image: Evergreen trees along the Entry (Bowl) Garden

