



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (3/3/2021)

Health Center Staff: 1 Case

Non-Health Center Staff: 1 Case

A Note from Heather McKee, Interim CEO and Executive Director

I have some great news to share with our Pines' community:

Changes in Quarantine Policy

Prior to the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, The Pines established safety protocols to reduce the risk of the virus' transmission among Independent Living residents in order to keep the community as safe as possible from the coronavirus. It was necessary and prudent, for example, for staff to note which residents traveled off campus and require that these individuals adhere to quarantine safety policies when returning to The Pines. These policies included separate fitness, dining, and other group activities for those who were in the "Quarantine (Q) Group" (also known as Group 2).

Given nearly 100% of The Pines' resident population is now fully vaccinated, The Pines management can begin to modify certain safety restrictions. These decisions are being made in accordance with current federal and state guidelines and in consultation with The Pines' Medical Advisor, other medical, legal, and public health experts, and The Resident Association Reopening Committee. Policy changes are subject to revision as necessary.

Effective Thursday, March 4th, The Pines is rescinding the following elements of the Quarantine Policy:

- Residents traveling off campus will no longer need to provide their names to the staff at Screening Station #1.
- Activities will no longer be separated into two groups (“Q” and “non-Q”) and instead all activities will include residents who have both traveled off campus and those who have not.
- A small flower sticker will no longer be placed by the door of individuals who have traveled off campus.

A quarantine policy remains in effect for those Independent Living residents who test positive for COVID-19. These individuals will need to remain in their accommodations and limit any potential interaction with fellow residents.

Please remember:

- Vaccination does not mean that an individual may not still test positive with the virus. The vaccine helps lessen the severity of the virus should the individual become infected with it.
- The medical community is also uncertain as yet, whether or not those individuals who have been vaccinated can still inadvertently pass along the virus to others.

The decision whether or not to engage in activities off campus is one of personal choice. At the same time, we rely on each other to continue to make responsible decisions that correspond with the high levels of mutual care, respect, and love of neighbor that are hallmarks of The Pines. Please continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, wash hands, and avoid large crowds on and off-campus.

Modified Reopening of Library

The Residents’ Association’s Library Committee will be reopening the Library (located in the Jetton Community Center) this coming Monday, March 8th on a modified schedule and incorporating the following safety policies:

- Library hours will be 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- Only 4 residents plus the Library volunteer will be permitted in the space at one time. The Library will be open only to residents.
- Residents may come search for a book and check it out but may not linger. Newspaper or periodical reading will not be permitted.
- Masks must be worn, and social distancing must be observed in the Library.
- The resident Library volunteer will help ensure that only 4 residents are in the space at a time – please be understanding of their role in helping keep members of our community safe.

- If you have any questions, please contact the new co-chairs of the Library Committee, Janet Tracy and Claudia Oldenburg. We are grateful for their work in reopening this beloved space in our community.

We look forward to keeping you apprised of additional relaxation of our safety policies that are being planned in the near future.

A Glimpse of Spring

“February was too cold and wet,” notes Bill Reinke but while searching for spring blooms last week, he found this gentle flower. Thank you, Bill, for capturing and sharing this image!



Closing Image

Many thanks to Ginger Johnson for sharing her recent oil painting, which depicts the abundant snow in Vermont. Her son sent her a photo of this shack, which his friend saw while driving on some backroads. What a crisp, classic New England scene! Happily, the spring season is on the near horizon.

