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General Updates – Information as of 1/5/22

Currently, there are 17 Residents are positive with COVID-19. 1 is new in the last day from 4N in Long Term Care. Resident cases continue to be confined to SJR and 4N/4S.

There has also been a total of 27 Caregivers who have been diagnosed, with 18 active cases.

Visitation in Long Term Care is still paused, with the exception of compassionate care/end of life and these continue to be discouraged as well.

Assisted Living Residents can now have visits in their apartments.

- We ask that you stay masked the entire time and do not eat or drink during the visit.
- Please no more than two visitors at a time.

We have partnered with Othello Clinic once again and will have two booster clinics on-site for our caregiver in the coming weeks. The first one will be on January 11th. Given what we know about Omicron we know the importance of getting our caregivers boosted and are grateful to have these two opportunities.

Thankfully, most residents have had mild symptoms. We have treated those residents who desired to be treated; most with Remdesivir. Additionally, we treated our first resident today with a monoclonal antibody, which is effective against the Omicron variant.

Q&A

Q: Did I understand at an earlier meeting that family members wanting to visit a resident at PMSV are able to be tested for Covid on the days that testing is available for staff (outside the West entrance)? If so, please tell us what days & times this is, and how soon are the results available? Also, how would we be notified? It would be wonderful to be tested & then go in for a visit after the results are in.

A: Yes we are still offering this, it would be helpful to bring the needed form with patient information pre-filled-out. You can get this from Colleen Farrell: colleen.farrell@providence.org. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF ANY ILLNESS, YOU CANNOT USE OUR TESTING SITE.

- Testing is on Mondays and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri from 6:00 – 7:00 a.m.
- Our current tests are read within 30 minutes after collection, although it can take another 15-30 minutes after that to notify the test-taker of the positive result via the phone # provided. If the result is negative, we don't routinely call each test-taker or provide a result notification (we do not have the infrastructure or software to do this).
- If you want to do this, we suggest planning the visit for 4pm prior to dinner if you will test in the afternoon. If testing at a morning session, you would then be pretty clear to visit any time after 7:30 a.m.

- If a person wanted to come back in and check at the 30min. mark, we are usually able to provide a verbal confirmation of the result.

Q: My mom said she can't visit other residents & there are no art classes (her favorite) for now. Any idea when activities will start up again?

A: They are actually starting up again this week. However, we re-opening them thoughtfully and still limiting the number of residents who are able to participate in order to maintain social distancing.

Q: Are we allowed to visit in AL?

A: Yes, please limit to two visitors at a time. We also want to make sure no eating or drinking together.

Q: Is it ok to take an AL resident out?

A: Yes, residents have the right to leave the building. Please take all precautions to make sure the outing is as safe as possible, including staying masked the whole time and avoid eating and drinking if possible.

Q: Do you check vaccine status for visitors?

A: We are moving towards asking this but we cannot limit visitors based on vaccination status. We have to closely follow regulations from DSHS, which says that residents have the right to visitors, regardless of their vaccination status.

Q: Can I visit my mom on 2N?

A: Not yet. We are highly discouraging compassionate care visits as well but if there is a change in condition or it is an end of life situation we would make an exception.

Q: In terms of quarantine period when there is a positive case, what guideline are you following?

A: In areas when we have ongoing transmission we are including staff and residents in these guidelines. Generally, it is a full 7 days with two rounds of negative tests before we could open to visitation.

Q: How many staff are positive on SJR 3?

A: We are not breaking out by neighborhood for caregivers. We do have some staff who are floats so it is hard to code exactly where people are. The numbers also change rapidly so the logistics of counting them up is not a priority. What we can say is that there are caregivers throughout the facility who have tested positive, it is not just in one or even two areas.

Q: If you have to show a vaccine card to go into restaurants why don't you at The Mount?

A: It is a resident's rights issue and a DSHS regulation. The best we can do it so strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated and boosted. In this most recent outbreak we have seen less cases among boosted people so we know how important that is.

Q: On AL side with activities still being limited, why can't they have activities more regular outside of their rooms while everyone is testing negative.

A: They can. We just put out a new activity schedule today actually. However, we are all very worried about anything where people are taking their masks off, which is why meals are still happening in rooms. We also have limited staffing, which is part of it. Thankfully spiritual care is supporting these efforts and there are activities for every floor at least once a day.

Q: There seems to be a difference between having something brought to your room in terms of an activity and getting out of your room for one.

A: Yes there is, which is why we have begun to offer more small-group activities for Assisted Living residents. The residents are also all allowed to get out, go walking in the hallways, and go outside. We ask that they don't stand around and chat but they are welcome to get out of their apartments.

Q: My mom is in AL and I was wondering when AL can resume things as normal?

A: Like we have said before, we are slowly reopening AL. We just cannot have large group activities or dining. It is important to remember that we are not just making these changes because of what is happening here at The Mount but we are also reacting to the cases in the community. These are prevention methods. Part of the reason why there have not been any cases in AL is because we are doing this.

Q: Can the Sisters know if one of our Sisters gets COVID on the 3rd floor of SJR? We want to be able to pray for our community members who are sick.

A: That is the responsibility of the Sisters DPOA or power of attorney. If that person wants to share that information then that is ok. Please be in contact with Charlene or Sr. Mary to discuss further.

Q: Can I visit my mother under compassionate care. She is on 2N?

A: You should work with the care team on the best way to do this.

Q: Do you know how many employees of The Mount left for not being vaccinated?

A: Thankfully, we did not lose a large number of caregivers. Those who did leave were offered assistance in finding other jobs within Providence.

Q: With limited staffing, coupled with increased time needed for procedures, what if anything can family members do to increase the staffing levels?

A: You can help recruit! If you know of any nurses or CNAs please direct them to Tanisha: Tanisha.Mojica@providence.org. There are also jobs we are routinely using volunteers for, which includes screening. If you are interested please reach out to Storey Squires, our Director of Volunteer Services at: Storey.Squires@providence.org.

Q: On SJR 3rd Fl the state emergency pool has been used for staffing. What is the criteria for you to move into another emergency level of staffing?

A: We currently work with three Agencies and the state emergency pool to get additional staff. We work on this constantly and always ask for as many additional caregivers as we can get.

There is also flexibility in that if for example, we do not have enough caregivers to do room tray service we will move resident to dining room. It is a tiered process and we are able to make these decisions as things come up.

Q: Is screening the only volunteering needed?

A: No, we are grateful to have many volunteers in the building! If you are interested in volunteering, or finding out a bit more about the different opportunities available, please reach out to Storey Squires, our Director of Volunteer Services at: Storey.Squires@providence.org.

Q: Is there any chance that with more kits that the residents could be tested twice a week like staff are in order to open up more freely?

A: Unfortunately no, because it is more about the labor at this point. It takes a significant amount of staff time to do the testing that we already do and we do not have the capacity to do more.