Dear friends and families,

I wanted to share some current information and statistics regarding COVID-19.  As of 6pm yesterday, there were 66 people hospitalized for COVID-19 with 2 in critical condition, a 7 day average of 195 new cases, and a 9.0% positivity rate for the State of Delaware.  In New Castle County, there were 34 hospitalizations, 1 of which is in critical condition. There was a 7 day average of 10.1% positivity rate and a 7-day average of 114.4 new cases of COVID-19.  Only 3.8% of all Delawareans who were fully vaccinated were infected with COVID-19. According to the CDC website, “***For Healthcare Facilities:****COVID-19 Community Levels do****not****apply in healthcare settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes. Instead, healthcare settings should continue to use*[*community transmission rates*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcovid.cdc.gov%2Fcovid-data-tracker%2F%23county-view&data=05%7C01%7CMCasperson%40kutzseniorliving.org%7C4000294a0e1b4789b37708da2a39d1b2%7C28b10a19c8ed4c9091af0e35c9203b8d%7C0%7C0%7C637868725104893720%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sbpyvxH0ZNYKrvpRIfDV0%2FDvKx5GjknPk8qTMIYnTag%3D&reserved=0)*and follow CDC’s*[*infection prevention and control recommendations*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control-recommendations.html&data=05%7C01%7CMCasperson%40kutzseniorliving.org%7C4000294a0e1b4789b37708da2a39d1b2%7C28b10a19c8ed4c9091af0e35c9203b8d%7C0%7C0%7C637868725104893720%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R82wzrYIBmCw2WtNMUbU89dFKueKqVRE%2Bwy8qRVQUcE%3D&reserved=0)*for healthcare workers.”* This is not the same thing as Community Levels of COVID-19.  The current COVID-19 Community level for New Castle County is “LOW”.  However, the level of community transmission rate as of yesterday was substantial.  Based on this level of community transmission rate, we continue to test all staff and vendors who are not up-to-date on vaccinations twice per week.  Those that are up-to-date with their vaccinations are only tested once per week. Residents are tested weekly during outbreak status, regardless of their vaccination status, and monthly when out of outbreak status.

There are new CDC guidelines surrounding eating with your resident.  Although, the CDC recommends not eating with the resident, if both the resident and the visitor(s) understand the risk of eating together without masks, it is the right of the resident to do so. The CDC does require the resident and visitor(s) not be around other residents during the meal.  Beginning, Monday, May 2nd, 2022, if you wish to eat with a resident, you must either eat with them in their room at KRN (if the roommate is not present) or apartment at LLAL, or outside, or in the private dining room attached to the main dining room at KRN.  If you wish to purchase a meal to eat with your resident, you must stop by the reception desk and pay for your meal as early as possible, so the staff can ensure enough food for the residents and you.  Guest meals at both facilities are as follows:  Breakfast - $5.00; Lunch - $7.00; Dinner - $10.00; All holiday meals - $15.00.   You will need to select your meal at the time of payment, and you will receive a voucher for your meal.  Please remember to replace your mask when you are not eating, for the protection of your resident.

**Kutz Rehab and Nursing**

We have **NO** team members, residents, or vendors who have tested positive for COVID-19 this week.  While we are still experiencing staffing shortages, we have hired some new staff who have made it a bit easier to cover the 66 resident cap we currently have in place.  As you know, we have the capacity for 90 residents, but are only accepting 66 residents until our staffing improves even more. Communal dining and communal activities continue, along with In-person visitation at Kutz Rehab & Nursing. Although the State of Emergency for Delaware has ended, the Public Health Emergency continues, and the level of community transmission remains “substantial” this week.  While masking indoors is not required in most of the community, healthcare facilities are required to have all employees, vendors and visitors continue to mask with a minimum of a medical grade mask.  Tightly fitting masks must still be worn over the nose and mouth in all healthcare facilities, including long term care and assisted living facilities, according to state and federal guidance. As the weather gets warmer, we strongly encourage resident visits take place outside if possible, or virtually/window visits if not. This is not only for our resident’s protection but yours as well, as we are worried about our extended family becoming infected. If you do choose to visit, we **cannot** ensure you will not become infected with COVID, and you will be taking on this risk yourself.  **If you do visit, please remember you must wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth at all times while in the building, and you must physically distance 6 feet from both residents and staff. Please do not congregate in the common areas, but go directly to your resident’s room or apartment for your visit, and directly from the room or apartment to the front desk to check out when you leave.** If you are not fully vaccinated, you will need to visit with your resident outdoors, wearing a tightly fitting face mask and socially distancing 6 feet, or in the newly constructed visitation area by the front reception desk.  **We appreciate your cooperation with this guidance from the state.**

**Lodge Lane**

We have **NO** new Residents, vendors, or staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 this week. Communal dining and communal activities continue.  While we are still experiencing staffing shortages at Lodge Lane also, we have hired some new staff allowing us to decrease some of our agency nursing usage. We are open for in-person visitation at Lodge Lane.  While masking indoors is not required in most of the community, healthcare facilities are not included.  Tightly fitting masks must still be worn over the nose and mouth in all healthcare facilities, including long term care and assisted living facilities, according to state and federal guidance. We strongly encourage resident visits take place outside if possible, or virtually/window visits if not. This is not only for our resident’s protection but yours as well, as we are worried about our extended family becoming infected. If you do choose to visit, we cannot ensure you will not become infected with COVID, and you will be taking on this risk yourself.  **If you do visit, please remember you must wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth at all times while in the building, and you must physically distance 6 feet from both residents and staff.  Please do not congregate in the common areas, but go directly to your resident’s apartment for your visit, and directly from the apartment to the front desk to check out when you leave.  You may not visit in common areas of the building, like the main dining room, the great room, or the café.** If you are not fully vaccinated, you will need to visit with your resident outdoors, wearing a tightly fitting face mask and socially distancing 6 feet, or in the Sunroom, which needs to be arranged via the SignUp Genius in advance of the visit.  **We appreciate your cooperation with this guidance from the state.**

We continue to follow all infection prevention measures to help stem the spread of the virus.  Should you choose to visit a resident, and would like to wear full PPE, our staff will be happy to help you with the process of putting on the PPE and taking it off when you leave.  KSLC will happily supply these items for you.  Our Housekeeping partners continue to perform frequent disinfection of both facilities.  In addition, we recently installed a Bipolar Ionization system at both facilities to “clean” the air throughout both buildings.  These are just a few of the measures we are following.

According to the CDC guidelines, we should not retest a positive resident or staff member for 90 days after being diagnosed with COVID-19. Additionally, all staff and vendors who are not “Up-to-Date” with their vaccines (are fully vaccinated and received their booster when required) are to be tested 2 times each week.  Those staff and vendors who are “up-to-date” are only required to test once per week.  We are following all of these guidelines.

As you know, we are still facing many staffing challenges. While we pride ourselves on providing wonderful care to our residents, there may be some delays and gaps noticed by our residents. I ask all of you to please be patient with us as we try our very best to provide the best care possible with our healthy staff remaining.  Many of these staff members are picking up extra shifts to cover our staffing opportunities. I appreciate your understanding during this difficult time.

Thank you for your continued support!

Yours in service,

cid:image001.png@01D85BED.1D8AEBD0

Felisha E. Alderson, MSN, RN, LNHA, NE-BC

CEO

Kutz Senior Living Campus

704 River Road

Wilmington, DE  19809

[Falderson@kutzseniorliving.org](mailto:Falderson@kutzseniorliving.org)

302-764-7000

302-377-2770 (cell)

302-764-1734 (fax)

