

Dear Residents and Families,

### **COVID-19 Update**

#### **Kutz Rehab & Nursing (KRN)**

- There are no staff or residents positive for COVID-19
- There are 2 residents on quarantine due to being a new admission, or returning from the hospital
- Indoor and Outdoor visits are available. You must sign up on the SignUp Genius for these visits.
- Communal dining began Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> with lunch. It was a very special day.
  - Residents are sitting 2 to a 6-7' table to enable social distancing of 6'
  - Tables are placed at least 6' apart
  - Residents are happy to be back in the Main Dining Room
- Small group (10 people or less) began March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - The residents are so happy to be out of their rooms!
- Rabbi Beals will be leading a virtual seder on Saturday at 3pm.
- The Dining group will be preparing individual seder plates for the residents.
- Our first indoor visit in the 600 Lounge was a great success. Look for the pictures on our KRN Facebook page.

#### **Lodge Lane Assisted Living & Memory Care (LLAL)**

- There is one resident who was positive for COVID-19 on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and is on transmission-based isolation
- There are no staff members who are positive for COVID-19
- Plans for communal dining are underway once the State of Delaware approves our reopening plan for LLAL.
  - We have to wait 14 days from the date the resident was positive, and then reapply for approval of our current reopening plan (March 23<sup>rd</sup>)
  - In preparation for communal dining, the Dining staff will perform a survey to see if residents prefer dining in 2 groups (a late group and an early group) each meal each day, or if they prefer dining their normal time every other day, with Wednesdays in their room or another plan.
- LLAL Activities staff is meeting with residents 1 on 1 and doing activities like virtual bingo.
- A Passover seder will be led by Faith Brown and Charlotte Zaback on March 26, either virtually or in person depending on State of Delaware approval.
- Rabbi Beals will be leading a virtual seder on Saturday at 3pm
- The Dining group will be preparing individual seder plates for the residents.

#### **Both KRN & LLAL**

Today, we celebrated our Healthcare Heroes, who have worked tirelessly for an entire year to care for our wonderful residents. We held a catered luncheon from Café Riviera at the Concord Mall, placed thank you signs, and provided our heroes with a small token of our appreciation (Healthcare Hero pins).

As an approved DelVax Provider, we are scheduled to hold a vaccination clinic this week. Although we asked for 21 vaccines, with a plan to utilize the 3 remaining vaccines, we were only allocated enough product for 18 vaccinations. We are hoping to hold clinics more often to ensure we can fully vaccinate all residents and staff at KSLC. Additionally, we are investigating the ability to provide vaccines to our resident families and our staff families as soon as we are allocated the vaccines. Once we know how this process will work we will notify you of the procedures to vaccinate with us. We will then need you to notify us of your basic information to get you registered in advance of the clinic. Stay tuned for more information on this option!

### **State COVID-19 Data**

As of 6:00 pm Monday, March 15, Delaware's statistics are as follows:

- o 90,614 cases (966.2/10,000 people)
  - 2,575 are residents of LTC facilities (~3%)
  - 52,413 – New Castle County
  - 14,844 – Kent County
  - 23,158 – Sussex County
- o 1,511 deaths (719 from LTC facilities - ~47.5%)
- o 95 Hospitalizations, 14 critical
- o 552,542 persons tested negative

### **County Positivity Rates**

**In regards to VISITATION:**

The Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Division of Healthcare Quality (DHCQ) are aware of the new guidelines released by the CDC and CMS on 3/10/2021. DPH and DHCQ teams are working on reviewing the new guidelines and incorporating them into the existing Reopening and Visitation Plan as quickly as possible. We are asking all facilities to be patient with this process, and promise a quick turnaround of an updated Plan.

As per the current Re-Opening and Visitation plan in Long Term Care facilities, in-person visitations may occur as permitted by the Reopening and Visitation Plan UNLESS two(2) of the following county indicators in the reopening criteria are red: new cases rate, percent of tests that are positive, average daily hospitalization.

Statewide Report		New Castle County Report		Kent County Report	
Criteria	Week 03/06/2021 to 03/12/2021	Criteria	Week 03/06/2021 to 03/12/2021	Criteria	Week 03/06/2021 to 03/12/2021
New cases rate (per 100,000 people)	144.5	New cases rate (per 100,000 people)	189.0	New cases rate (per 100,000 people)	100.1
Percent of tests that are positive	3.6	Percent of tests that are positive	3.8	Percent of tests that are positive	3.6
Average daily hospitalizations (per 100,000 people)	9.7	Average daily hospitalizations (per 100,000 people)	10.6	Average daily hospitalizations (per 100,000 people)	8.5

The tables below show recent reports regarding Reopening Details:

Long Term Care Facilities throughout the state may apply for visitation and other activities as per the Re-opening Guidance (<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2021/01/Reopening-Plan-1.26.21-1.pdf>). Facilities must have an approved plan prior to implementing any visitation, communal dining or activities.

Per the Re-opening Guidance: *Required Visitation Except for on-going use of virtual visits, LTC facilities may restrict visitation due to the COVID-19 county positivity rate, the facility's COVID-19 status, a resident's COVID-19 status, visitor symptoms, lack of adherence to proper infection control practices, or other relevant factor(s) related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, a LTC facility may not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause, consistent with §483.10(f)(4)(v) and/or 16 Delaware Code, §1121.* For example, if a facility has had no COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and its county positivity rate is low or medium, a LTC facility must facilitate in-person visitation consistent with the regulations, which can be done by applying this guidance. Failure to facilitate visitation, without adequate reason related to clinical necessity or resident safety, would constitute a potential violation of 42 CFR 483.10(f)(4) and/or 16 Delaware Code, §1121, and the LTC facility would be subject to citation and enforcement actions.

*Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 should only receive visits that are virtual, through windows, or in-person for compassionate care situations, with adherence to transmission based precautions. This restriction should be lifted once transmission-based precautions are no longer required per CDC guidelines, and other visits may be conducted as described above.*

The above data can also be found on

<https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/locations/state/coronavirus-weekly-summary>

**In regards to TESTING:**

Using information posted on [Data.CMS.gov](https://data.cms.gov), the three Delaware counties positivity rates from 02/24/2021 to 03/09/2021 are listed in the table below:

County	Percent Positivity in prior 14 days	Test Positivity Classification - 14 days	Frequency of Routine Testing for Staff
<b>Kent County, DE</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Once every 14 days for those who are fully vaccinated (i.e., <math>\geq 2</math> weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or <math>\geq 2</math> weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine); and • Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series</b> <b>Weekly</b> for those who do not meet the above criteria
<b>New Castle County, DE</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Sussex County, DE</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Weekly</b>

**In the News**

I am sure you have seen the new guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released last Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> around 5pm. As you can see above, today, the State of Delaware Division of Healthcare Quality (DHCQ), the Division of Public Health, and the State of Delaware Health Operations Center (SHOC) said they are aware of these new guidelines. They “are working on reviewing the new guidelines and incorporating them into the existing Reopening and Visitation Plan as quickly as possible. We are asking all facilities to be patient with this process, and promise a quick turnaround of an updated Plan.” Last Friday all long-term care facilities were instructed by DHCQ and the DPH not to move forward with any changes in our visitation policies until new guidance was released by the state. As soon as that guidance is released to us, we will move forward with its contents and notify you of the changes. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience, as our hands are tied.