

December 27, 2021

Dear Residents & Families:

We were notified that one employee at Samaritan Health Center tested positive for COVID-19 last night. This will extend our outbreak. We have conducted contact tracing and will test all staff and residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated) that have worked or reside on the affected unit (4th floor) until we have gone 14 consecutive days without any new cases. Due to the abundance of holiday gatherings, we are taking a proactive measure and will require all staff in the SNF to wear an N95 mask and eye protection in resident care areas and test all staff to prevent further transmission.

We do not recommend visitation during an outbreak due to the potential risk of transmission of COVID-19, which can lead to illness, hospitalization, and even death, however visitation during outbreak is now permitted. Visitors doing visits on the 3rd and 4th floors will be required to wear an N-95 mask and face shield and will be educated on the risks of entering during an outbreak on our Accushield. We also ask that residents wear a mask during visits. We are still required to follow the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention:

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Samaritan Campus will screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred).
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g. use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit.
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH)

We ask that visitors please go directly to the resident's room and avoid direct contact with other residents and staff (if unnecessary) and that visitors do not congregate in public areas such as dining rooms, the multipurpose room, day rooms, down by the vending machines, etc. We also ask that residents please wear masks during visits. These precautions will mitigate the risk of further transmission.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this challenging time. We wish you a Happy New Year!

Taya Walk, NHA

Campus Administrator