April 30, 2021

Dear Edenton Residents, Family Members and Staff:

This week we saw announcements that the CDC provided new guidance for people related to vaccination status impacting when one should mask indoors or outdoors and gathering sizes for venues. The benchmark issued by the CDC will be used by many states to alter their current re-opening plans just as Governor Hogan announced yesterday for the general population of Maryland residents. National guidance was also issued to long term care facilities by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updating visitation and testing requirements based upon vaccination status for long term care residents and staff members.

In many instances, this would be welcome news to not be required to wear a mask outdoors, with visitors indoors, and to not be surveillance tested if already vaccinated. Most of this new guidance can not be initiated here at Edenton since the Maryland Department of Health in the Nursing Home/LTC Matters, still requires masks to be worn at all times in our licensed facilities and testing continue under specific situations. We are working to determine the best way to learn about vaccination status (for new admissions, visitors, and staff) to help guide us in easing the masking, distancing and activity level of the campus. We clearly see that vaccination status will determine these decisions moving forward.

To help clarify what remains necessary, please continue to participate in the following:

1. Wear a mask at all times when outside of your unit (IL or AL and whether vaccinated or not)

2. You and your visitor(s) must continue to wear your mask, even if visiting outside, whether vaccinated or not.

3. Refrain from high- risk activities with family and friends. Try to surround yourselves with those who want to help reduce your risk to exposure.

Effective May 1st, we will implement a few more activities or events for Residents. During the month of May, we will begin to have AL residents from the various buildings be able to attend Sunday church services in the chapel area. Please refer to the calendar and talk with your life enrichment coordinator if interested in attending. They will help to arrange an escort.

Also, beginning May 3rd, we will begin to permit Residents (especially AL Residents) to schedule a visit in a local family member's home for several hours. Staff will need to know when the visit is scheduled, how long the Resident may be away and the expected return time. I respectfully request that unvaccinated family members consider the risk they may pose to our AL Resident and their peers. Please consider limiting the number of family members in the home and mask when not actively eating or drinking. I trust that family members will understand the importance of health and safety as we permit this activity to occur.

As always, if I can answer any question or provide you with information, please reach out to me or another member of our team.

Be well,

RaeAnn Butler
Administrator