



## **MEMO**

**TO:** Families and staff

**From:** Tina O'Malley RN, ICC

**Date:** June 28, 2022

### **COVID- 19 Update at Valley Manor LTC**

We at Valley Manor are working to make visiting your loved ones easier. We very much appreciate the patience shown during the Pandemic with the measures that have been put into place to keep our vulnerable population the safest we can.

- ✓ The hours currently in place for visitors to come for rapid antigen testing will be removed. This should greatly reduce the congestion at the main entrance as visitor may come and be tested at anytime during regular visiting hours.
- ✓ The screener will supervise visitors to swab their own nostrils and then will be responsible for the processing of rapid antigen tests.
  - Each essential caregiver will sign a new, annual consent form for the rapid antigen tests, reducing the number of forms to sign.
  - General visitors will continue to sign consent for the rapid antigen test each visit.
  - The attestation form has been retired, requiring visitors only to initial the screening form as attestation they have not visited a resident with symptoms or a home in outbreak in the last 10 days.
- ✓ General visitors will now be able to visit with their loved ones outside of their rooms. The lounges, courtyard and activities (if space allows) can be enjoyed by all.
- ✓ Please continue to visit with only your loved one at this time. Visiting room to room, or multiple residents increases the risk of transmission of germs. COVID-19 is transmissible for 48 hours prior to symptom onset or acquisition of the virus and may not be detected by a rapid antigen test early on.
- ✓ It remains best to order a meal tray for the resident if planning to visit during a meal due to limited space in the dining room. Infection Control practices continue to include physical distancing between tables and groups of visitors. There is a guest table that can be booked if a visitor wishes to sit in the dining room with the resident and there may be volunteer feeders assisting staff by feeding residents at times as well.

- ✓ Masks are still required, even if visiting outdoors in the courtyard. Children under the age of two are not required to wear a mask.

The following policies have not changed:

- ✓ If a resident is ill and isolation precautions are in place, only **one (1) essential caregiver** is able to visit at a time. Personal protective equipment must be worn when in the room and removed immediately upon exiting.
- ✓ **Essential Caregivers** must have a Rapid Antigen test, at a minimum, two (2) times per week. A negative result obtained is valid for the next day, therefore tests will not be performed on two consecutive days. Please keep your proof of result cards to show the screener you have had 2 in one week. Once the test has been performed, the essential caregiver may proceed to the resident's room. For the purposes of testing, a week is considered to be Monday to Sunday.
- ✓ **General visitors/support workers** require proof of a negative test prior to entry, taken the day of the visit, or on the previous day. Again, a proof of result card will be provided. The rapid testing takes approximately 20 minutes to perform. Those support workers who are regulated health professionals may enter prior to receipt of test result; otherwise, general visitors are required to wait for the result prior to entry.
- ✓ Visitors, up to a maximum of **4** per resident, may visit at a time. Please remember to keep the curtain closed between residents to provide privacy and assist with social distancing.
- ✓ Children under 5 years of age may visit as general visitors although they are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. They will require rapid testing. Infants under the age of 1 are not considered visitors and are excluded from testing requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tina O'Malley RN, ICC