



## A Caring Community

Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation \* The Gardens of French Creek Assisted Living \* Outpatient Therapy Services  
Porter Pavilion - Alzheimer's Care - Memory Support \* Acorn Childcare Center

Aug 17, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and dedicated team,

In light of the steady increase in COVID-19 cases, especially knowing that the Delta Variant is proving to be more infectious, I find it necessary to evaluate our current policies and safety protocols. Although we were so relieved that for much of the summer we were able to have visits, outings and get more back to normal, I have the obligation to make decisions to help keep our residents and team as safe and healthy as possible.

Vaccine boosters are already recommended for those with compromised immune systems (we are evaluating our residents, with their physicians, and will contact the responsible party if a booster is recommended). It is likely that the booster will be recommended for people over 65 and health care workers soon after that. We will continue to update you on this as vaccination plans evolve.

On 8/16/21, our county positivity rate according to CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) was 6.2% and classified as yellow, indicating substantial transmission of the COVID-19 Virus. We are required to check this data weekly, and initiate different protocols based on virus transmission and positivity rates. Once our county went from green (low spread) to yellow our staff were required to wear face shields again. We will continue to monitor this data as required, and update you if there are any changes.

Recent studies have indicated that vaccinated people, who contracted the virus, were just as likely to transmit it than unvaccinated people. This is the study that made the CDC recommend even vaccinated people wear masks indoors in public places.

What is Avon Oaks doing to try to prevent an outbreak?

- Unvaccinated staff are continuing to test twice weekly per regulation
- Vaccinated staff are testing once weekly (our own policy in light of increased cases)
- Discouraging residents to go on outings to public places, especially indoors, in crowds or around those who are unvaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown
- Carefully evaluating the need to quarantine residents who choose to go out upon return to the facility. This is a team decision based on the situation/people a resident encounters when they leave the building. The resident may have to quarantine for 14 days upon return to the facility. This means not leaving their room and no visitors unless for a compassionate care visit. This could also mean being placed in a different room for 14 days if they have a roommate. Staff would have to wear N95 mask, gown, and gloves while in quarantined resident room.
- Discouraging anyone who is unvaccinated from visiting especially inside the facility, including children under the age of 12. **If children or anyone unvaccinated does visit they are required to wear a mask and distance for the duration of the visit** and encouraged to visit outside.
- Encouraging ALL visitors to wear masks for duration of visit, even while in room with resident
- Tent will be placed outside to allow for more outside visits as weather permits.

See other side please

## REMINDERS FOR ALL:

- Call ahead to schedule a visit. We are stretched very thin at this time and are having a difficult time accommodating unscheduled visitors. We hate to turn anyone away, but we are required to have safety protocols in place for visits. If you show up without an appointment you may be turned away. PLEASE call to schedule ahead. We have to ensure that there is a place for the visit to occur and that we have ample space to accommodate visits. We are also trying to minimize congestion in the lobby to keep you and us safe.
- We are required to screen all visitors every time. This includes temperature, screening questions and informing you that if you become ill or learn you have come in contact with anyone who is Covid positive you are required to inform us immediately.
- If you are vaccinated please copy your card for our receptionist or show it to them so they can mark you down. You can also give them your birthday and name and we can verify it in the vaccine database or email it to [ccostello@avonoaks.net](mailto:ccostello@avonoaks.net). We will not use or share this information for anything but our own knowledge and ability to alter visits based on it.
- You are **not permitted** to visit in the dining room or activity room or anywhere other residents are located. If the resident shares a room an alternate visit location will be provided if possible. If you would like to have a meal with your family member please call and ask for Brad, Activities or the Team Leader and we will make arrangements for you to do this if possible.
- You are to wear your mask over your mouth and nose throughout the building and avoid contact with any other residents and staff.
- Continue to practice hand hygiene and physical distancing.
- Quarantined residents may only have closed window visits or approved compassionate care visits.

Thank you for your trust and understanding as we enter this next phase. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 440-934-3808 or [ccostello@avonoaks.net](mailto:ccostello@avonoaks.net).

Sincerely,

Colleen Costello, RN, LNHA  
Administrator

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