



November 4, 2020

Residents and Families,

While we remain pleased to report we have no resident cases, we were informed of two therapists from our vendor partners in care testing positive and potentially exposing six residents and their roommates. The risk is very minimal as the residents and the therapists were all wearing masks at the time of their interactions. We tested all residents on Sunday as a result of the team member that had tested positive on the October 22nd and all results were negative. Per CMS guidelines, all residents and team members should be tested, and all team members and residents that tested negative should be retested every three to seven days until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 infections among staff or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.

Unfortunately, these new positives, although not tested at Evergreen and not employed by Evergreen, still fit the description of an outbreak as defined by CMS: "Facility staff includes employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and caregivers who provide care and services to residents on behalf of the facility." As a result, outdoor visits are still an option, weather permitting, but indoor visits are not a possibility at this time. Individuals on isolation either as a result of symptoms, recently moving into the community or exposure, are not able to participate in visits other than compassionate care visits, as a result of regulations from CMS, KDADS, and JCDHE.

On a positive note, the weather looks to be cooperating with us for outdoor visits over the next several days. Indoor visits will resume when weather does not permit outdoor visits once we no longer have positive cases of team members or residents over the last 14 days. The other factor we will need to keep an eye on involves the positivity rate in the county. We are required to follow the positivity rate per KDHE when determining if indoor visits are safe to be held. The requirement is for the positivity rate to be below 10% in order to have indoor visits. Presently, the positivity rate per KDHE is 8.6% for the previous two-week period. We will need to monitor this closely as the county lists the positivity rate at 10.5%.

As the weather changes, the prevalence of COVID-19 in Johnson County has sky rocketed. We would encourage each of you to continue to be vigilant. Wear your mask. Practice good hand hygiene and socially distance yourself. Please continue to take all appropriate mitigation efforts and remind your loved ones to do the same.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like any additional information on our practices within the community or plans moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jamie Paredes
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