



12/07/2020

Residents and Families,

The Holiday season is well underway and, although it looks different, it still brings with it a renewed sense of hope. There is because a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is nearing completion with two vaccine studies showing over 94% effectiveness preventing a person from having any disease symptoms at all and even greater success preventing severe diseases symptoms. There has been concern expressed regarding side effects of the vaccine, however, study results have shown mild symptoms in less than 4% of study participants. For participants over the age of 65, adverse effects were less commonly reported than those in the lower age group.

The medical director group for Evergreen, Elite Patient Care (formerly known as Kansas City Medical Partners) provided the following information: *"The FDA has a meeting on December 10th to discuss the emergency authorization of the first vaccine candidate for approval. We expect vaccine distribution may potentially start within 24 hours of approval and we encourage everyone to consider their thoughts on accepting the vaccine ahead of this time due to limited ability to access the vaccine in the short term. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-announces-advisory-committee-meeting-discuss-covid-19-vaccine>."* Evergreen has completed the necessary paperwork to receive the vaccine and we are waiting to hear back from the pharmacy regarding distribution.

We are incredibly grateful to continue not to have any residents testing positive for COVID-19. We seem to consistently have one team member test positive every week or two with our last positive team member on November 29th. We continue to use N95 masks for all team members and have started using surgical masks for residents which are more effective in protecting them. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the safety protocols in place, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

The CDC has issued new guidelines reducing the number of days close contacts should quarantine following exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual. KDHE announced local health departments can choose to adopt these recommendations effective December 3, 2020. Johnson County adopted these recommendations, but it excluded long term care facilities, so our policy of 14-day quarantine will remain in place.

We continue to offer outdoor visits for individuals not on isolation precautions. Tents and heaters have been purchased to help in facilitating these visits during the winter months. In order to schedule your outdoor visit, window visit or video chat, please contact your life coach at least 48 hours in advance. Compassionate care visits continue to be provided as appropriate. As always, continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask and use good hand hygiene by using the hand sanitizer outside every room if washing your hands is not quickly accessible.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions and use the Evergreen update line at (913) 477-8202 for the most up to date information.

Stay safe,

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