

August 20, 2021

Residents/Family/Friends/Staff,

**Voluntary FREE Covid Testing:** We highly recommend knowing your testing status before coming to the facility to keep our community as safe as possible and are happy to report that some visitors requested a free rapid covid test this week and the process went smoothly. We will continue to offer voluntary FREE rapid covid tests Monday to Friday (9 AM to 2:00 PM) for any visitor coming to the facility. Please call 321-9294 ext 105 (Tim W) a couple minutes before arrival and we will meet you outside. Please also contact Tim to discuss covid testing outside of these hours as needed.

The rapid tests we use are also available for purchase without a prescription (BinaxNOW COVID 19 Antigen Self Test) from Amazon, Walmart and CVS (for example). The cost currently is around \$10/test.

**Developing Story #1:** HHS will be mandating that all staff in a nursing home be vaccinated or lose funding which overrides our ethics committee meeting last week. The primary payer source for our residents is Medicaid therefore we must adhere to the directive when it becomes active. There are no details available at this time regarding timeline or possible exemptions however we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

**Developing Story #2:** HHS announced this week that a 3rd shot will be made available to everyone eight months after their initial vaccination series starting in September 2021. A majority of our Residents will be eligible early October.

**Hamilton County's positivity rate:** has increased to 7.9%. This is an increase of 1.8%. Visitation under the current order will NOT be suspended if the positivity rate surpasses 10% due to our Resident vaccinated rate being greater than 70%. We encourage everyone to take a moment and consider your exposure risk as you go about your daily life decisions, especially if visiting the facility is part of your routine. We highly recommend knowing your testing status before coming to the facility to keep our community as safe as possible.

**Covid-19 Status:** We have had no known positive resident cases of COVID-19. We encourage Residents to resume wearing facial coverings indoors as recommended by the CDC due to the delta variant regardless of vaccination status.

**Help Keep Us Covid Free:** Due to the more transmissible delta variant, we continue to encourage everyone get a Covid-19 vaccine to protect against the worst symptoms of Covid-19. If you are experiencing any symptoms of an upper respiratory infection, please stay away from the facility as the symptoms for covid-19 continue to evolve.

As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns please contact me, Scot Harmon (Administrator) or Patricia Clark (CEO).