

Landis Communities Update November 18, 2020

An epidemiologist speaking on NPR this morning shared that the phase of COVID-19 we are experiencing right now will be the phase written about in the history books. Across Landis Communities we believe this is true because, **right now is the most critical time we have experienced since this began in March.** The message we are sharing with you today is one of urgency. We hope it will help you understand the current situation we are facing and the role each of you play in determining what happens next.

Testing and Positive Cases – Throughout the pandemic we have reported on symptomatic tests for residents and universal testing for residents and team members. At Landis Homes, the universal test numbers only are now at 2705 tests for team members, 683 tests for Healthcare residents and 524 tests for Personal Care Residents. To date, 70 team members and 42 residents have tested positive. Sadly, four residents have lost their lives. At Welsh Mountain Home, the recent outbreak of 29 residents and four team members has also brought three deaths and some residents are still battling the illness.

Critical Staffing – We are experiencing critical staffing shortages across the organization. Today there were 24 team members reported as being out due to positive test results or exposure. Others must step in and work even longer hours. Agency staffing in some areas may soon be necessary. Given the current situation with staff, the measures taken on the Landis Homes campus in the spring to institute a checkpoint, deliver meals and operate a food pantry are not a likely possibility.

The Wolf Administration has indicated that widespread stay at home orders are not the direction they intend to take here in Pennsylvania. Instead, with significantly higher daily case counts than in the spring and with hospitalizations on the rise, yesterday new measures were announced to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The two that directly affect the residents, clients and team members of Landis Communities include new travel requirements and a strengthening of the masking order.

Travel to Pennsylvania – The previous guidelines for a 14-day quarantine after traveling from “hot spot” states has been replaced with this order. It is also important to note that this new measure is not a recommendation but a requirement. The summary provided by the State of PA says, *“Dr. Levine issued an order requiring anyone who visits from another state to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to entering the commonwealth. If someone cannot get a test or chooses not to, they must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvanians visiting other states are required to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to their return to the commonwealth or to*

quarantine for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania. This order, which takes effect on Friday, November 20, does not apply to people who commute to and from another state for work or medical treatment.”

Strengthened Masking Order – Dr. Levine first issued a masking order on April 15. The order signed yesterday strengthens the initial order. The highlights of the order, provided by the state are:

- *Masks are required to be worn indoors and outdoors if you are away from your home.*
- *When outdoors, a mask must be worn if you are not able to remain physically distant (at least 6 feet away) from someone not in your household the entire time you are outdoors.*
- ***When indoors, masks will now be required even if you are physically distant from members not in your household. This means that even if you are able to be 6 feet apart, you will need to wear a mask while inside if with people other than members of your household.***
- *This order applies to every indoor facility, including homes, retail establishments, gyms, doctors’ offices, public transportation, and anywhere food is prepared, packaged or served.*

We understand this is difficult to hear right now, especially with the holidays so close. We have shared in previous updates words from Dr. Leon Kraybill. In an article by Dr. Kraybill published Sunday in LNP, he shares these things that are very important.

*The only way to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 illness and death is to take simple, known and proven precautions **during every moment of every day...***

- 1. Distance and duration.*
- 2. Masking.*
- 3. Hand hygiene.*

Holidays are a recipe for personal, family and community COVID-19 disaster... Try to see the big picture of risk without letting your understandable wish for normalcy cloud your choices. For the immediate future in our community, most traditional family and social gatherings should not occur...

There will eventually be a time when we can gather joyously in community to share food and fun. That time is not now. Now is the time to continue precautions that allow us to survive and enjoy future holiday meals.

The positivity rate in Lancaster County is updated each Friday. Last week that number was 9.6%. If it rises above 10%, we face immediate consequences. Landis Adult Day Services will need to close. Landis Homes Healthcare residents and team members will be required to undergo universal testing TWICE A WEEK. Not only is this incredibly uncomfortable for all involved but it is time consuming and expensive.

We must all do our part. **Please stay home for all but essential needs.**

At Landis Homes, Life Enrichment off campus activities are being suspended for all but shopping trips. In accordance with the new masking regulations, please wear a face covering when leaving your residence or when visiting others in a residence, including when riding in a car with persons other than members of your household.

While we are hearing some good news about vaccines and immunity this is not time to let our guard down. As we have said since the beginning, the health and safety of residents, clients and team members is our primary concern. You have shown incredible resilience through the past nine months. Please stay courageous in the face of fatigue. We will get through this, together.

One last note, we are working diligently to change visitor guidelines, screening questions and signage to comply with these new guidelines. Please check our websites Friday for updates.

Residents, clients and family members may contact Jenny Sheckells with questions or concerns at jsheckells@landis.org or 717.381.3573. You may find other communications and videos on our website: www.landiscommunities.org/COVID

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