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LandisCommunities.org

Landis Communities Update December 15, 2021

Greetings to you during this Christmas season!

As we enter this time of hope and joy, we are grateful for each of you who are part of Landis Communities – residents, clients, family and team members. We appreciate the care and compassion you have for each other and the many ways you express that daily. Your actions and words of encouragement reflect the spirit of the season!

We recognize that this year the holidays are once again filled with uncertainty. As we long to gather with family and friends, we cannot ignore the rising number of COVID-19 cases across Landis Communities and in Lancaster County. The positivity rate in Lancaster County on Monday, December 13 was 18.22%.

An article yesterday in LNP titled **Lancaster County Sets Pandemic Record with 180 COVID-19 Hospitalizations** caught our attention. It went on to say:

Lancaster County reported 180 COVID-19 patients in its three hospitals today, breaking the previous pandemic high of 178 set in December 2020, according to data from the state Department of Health.

The grim milestone is a testament to the growing hazard of the pandemic as it enters into its second winter season, especially for unvaccinated people, who are far more likely than those who are vaccinated to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19.

On the Landis Homes campus, four people who live in Residential Living and one ADS client tested positive for COVID-19 in the past two weeks. Nine team members (2 Residential Living, 1 Personal Care, 5 Healthcare and 1 Landis at Home) also tested positive in that same period. The big change regarding these team members is that seven of the nine were fully vaccinated and one was partially vaccinated. We are very grateful that no positive cases among Personal Care or Healthcare residents have been found during required testing.

At Welsh Mountain Home, an unvaccinated team member tested positive on 12/3/21. This prompted outbreak testing for all residents and staff. On 12/6/21, two residents and one additional team member (unvaccinated) were also identified as positive for COVID-19. We were able to isolate the positive residents so vaccinated residents did not have to quarantine. The second round of outbreak testing on 12/10/21 resulted in 100% negative results for all team members and residents. Another round of testing will take place on 12/20/21. If all are negative, the facility will be out of outbreak status. We are praying for this primarily for the health of residents and team members but also in hopes that the resident Christmas celebration – with COVID-19 precautions – can take place as planned.



Cultivating
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Perhaps our best effort is to encourage all who are eligible to receive the booster dose of the vaccine. It is proving effective in protecting against Delta infections as well as the new Omicron variant that is anticipated to become more prevalent in January.

Regarding team member vaccination as a condition of employment, the process to grant exemptions is nearing completion. Although we will be losing some valued team members, we have been encouraged by others who have made the decision to stay.

The number of new hires continues to be strong. Sixteen new team members were in orientation this week! We are honored that they want to join a community where we serve together in a spirit of Christ like love. Please continue to share potential job opportunities with those you know – children, grandchildren, friends or church members. Visit [LandisCareers.org](https://www.landiscareers.org) for the latest list of openings.

Vaccine clinics continue for team members to receive initial doses as well as booster shots. Residential Living will again be offered booster shots in the new year.

This season, may we continue to exercise caution as we gather with those we love and as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Blessings to you for health and peace,

Larry Zook
President/CEO

Evon Bergey
Vice President Operations/COO

P.S. 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