

Landis Communities Update

June 17, 2020

LNP, our Lancaster newspaper, reported yesterday that in the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster County is currently near the top of the list for rate of new cases of COVID-19, even ahead of Philadelphia. Here are excerpts from an article by Dr. Leon Kraybill as published in LNP:

Wearing a mask in public is a "social courtesy and ethical obligation"

"Prevention and management of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities is an evolving science that is slowly becoming clearer. Our Lancaster County PA nursing home residents have taken the brunt of the illness and death associated with COVID-19. Our task now is to utilize all available tools to limit future outbreaks.

As a social courtesy to others, we should wear a cloth mask to prevent it spreading when we are out in public. If everyone took these precautions, as if we were each infected, then the spread of COVID-19 would drop significantly. You will see me wearing a cloth mask in public, as I have watched too many people die of this disease.

What does this mean for a regular trip to the grocery store? I believe strongly that it is a social courtesy and ethical obligation to wear a cloth mask. Explain that you are doing this out of respect for your neighbor's health. Lower the 'heat' of your conversations, and just do the right thing for the good of all of us.

COVID-19 has slowed in some places, but has recently ticked up again in Lancaster County. Please be thoughtful and deliberate about how you protect yourself, your family, your long-term care neighbors and your community."

Thanks to all who continue to support the Coronavirus Emergency Fund! To date you have blessed Landis Communities with 1015 gifts totaling \$266,522. We will continue to seek donations for this fund through June 30 to support the ever-growing expenses associated with the work to prevent the spread of the virus.

Affiliate & Partner Updates

Welsh Mountain Home

WMH is currently without a known case of COVID-19. We continue to follow Department of Health protocols regarding visitation. Based on current guidelines, we anticipate visitation restrictions at Welsh Mountain Home to remain in place for 28 days after Lancaster County moves to the Green phase. WMH continues to offer video visits by appointment via our Facebook page.

The logo for "Cultivating Life, Together" features the word "Cultivating" in a large, elegant, purple cursive font, with "Life, Together" in a smaller, purple sans-serif font below it. The text is set against a background of stylized, overlapping leaves in shades of purple, green, and yellow.

As the county moves into the yellow phase, we urge residents to continue to limit traveling outside of our community to essential doctor appointments only. We understand how much you miss your loved ones. While going to an outdoor dining area or visiting outside in the garden while wearing a mask may seem harmless, we must reduce the risk of COVID-19 entering our building. We are also urging our staff to follow these same guidelines. All team members continue to screen for symptoms at the beginning and end of every shift.

Landis Adult Day Services

Adult Day Services has begun the planning to reopen the Eden West center. A date for reopening has not yet been determined but we remain hopeful that we will soon be able to gather again with our participants. We continue to offer Virtual Adult Day Services on Tuesday and Thursday. The morning session has been changed from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. One hour later has been helpful to increase participation.

Landis at Home

Landis at Home will continue to operate with split teams for on and off campus during the Yellow Phase of reopening. Anyone interested in engaging Landis at Home for shopping, errand running, housekeeping or other services is welcome to call 717.509.5800. Due to increased demand at this time, Landis at Home is also busy recruiting new employees.

Steeple View Lofts

While shops and restaurants continue to open up in the area near Steeple View Lofts, we are reminded that COVID-19 is still in our community. Steeple View Lofts continues to discourage non-essential guests in our building, requires everyone wear facemasks in common areas such as hallways and entryways, and encourages residents to exercise caution when they venture out of the building for errands. SVL remains without a known case of COVID-19.

Landis Homes

As we have been sharing, Landis Homes is conducting universal testing. This proactive measure in Healthcare on June 4 & 5 was ahead of Governor Wolf's order on June 8, 2020, for all nursing facilities in the state to undergo baseline testing of residents. Five asymptomatic Healthcare residents tested positive and were moved to a designated COVID unit. All have now completed their isolation period without developing symptoms and have returned to their residence.

Universal testing in Personal Care has not yet been mandated but Landis Homes believes it is the right thing to do to be able to control the potential spread of the virus. Personal Care residents and team members, along with many other team members were tested June 11 & 12. Seven asymptomatic team members tested positive for Covid-19 and are quarantined at home. Twelve residents in Personal Care tested positive and two tests are still pending. Of the 12 with positive test results, two residents had some symptoms that happened to coincide with the universal testing. Ten were asymptomatic. Those testing positive have been moved to a COVID designated area or COVID areas have been created where there are a cohort of positive cases.

One resident who tested negative during universal testing has now developed symptoms and was retested yesterday. The results are pending.

One team member who has been off due to symptoms and tested negative last week (not universal testing), was retested on 6/15 and is now positive. That team member will remain quarantined at home.

Yesterday we issued an “All Call” notice for all Residential Living residents to check their Activity Logs. It stated:

“...if you visited the Blood Pressure clinic on June 11, you may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This person was asymptomatic and was wearing personal protective equipment. Therefore, the risk of transmission is low but please be vigilant regarding any signs or symptoms. Call the nurse immediately should you experience a cough, fever, shortness of breath, nausea, diarrhea, chills, body aches or other unusual symptoms. Thank you for continuing to follow the guidelines of the CDC regarding the wearing of face coverings when leaving your residence, maintaining physical distance and washing your hands.”

We cannot stress enough the need to continue to be vigilant. We all run the risk of exposure every day, with every interaction. These first two rounds of universal testing have brought to light positive cases of approximately 5% of Healthcare residents and 12% of Personal Care residents. Those numbers are higher than we anticipated, but it is crucial information for us to stop the spread. It is safe to assume that some of the people you come in contact with are asymptomatic positive.

Let us continue to protect ourselves and value each other by following the guidelines from the CDC and continuing to live out our guiding values of Joy, Compassion, Integrity, Stewardship and Community.

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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