

July 13, 2020

As our residents and staff are full swing into Florida's summer months, we are acutely aware of the differences that this year's season brings. The current COVID-19 Pandemic has brought many changes in the daily routines and activities for our staff, residents, and post-acute patients receiving skilled care. These changes have become our new normal with modified procedures evaluated and refined in a process of continual performance improvement toward Coronavirus precautions. Such mitigation efforts include:

- **Screenings of Healthcare personnel (HCP) prior to facility entrance:** Temperature and pulse oximetry (blood oxygen level) readings are taken daily along with a series of validating questions, aimed at identifying COVID-19 related signs and symptoms, possible med-high risk exposure to other virus-positive persons, recent travel, and compliance with bi-weekly COVID-19 testing requirements. Entrance is only granted to those who successfully fulfill all screening components.
- **Mandatory staff COVID-19 bi-weekly testing:** We began bi-weekly scheduled staff testing (including physicians, Nurse Practitioners, lab and x-ray technicians, Hospice nurses, and any other essential contracted HCP who interact with our residents, patients, and staff). Our most recent all-staff testing was conducted on July 2-3, 2020, and yielded the following results:
 - Total Number Tested = 191
 - Total Number Negative = 187
 - Total Number Positive = 4 (all were asymptomatic)
 - Positivity Rate = .02 (2%)

As a reminder, our daily COVID-19 daily reporting can be found on our website @: www.Solarishalthcare.org. We are confident that the bi-weekly testing will help further mitigate possible exposure risk from those asymptomatic HCP.

- **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):** In addition to requiring all HCP to wear face coverings while inside the center, we've also implemented the utilization of full PPE (gown, gloves, full face shield and medical face mask- with N-95 respirator masks when indicated) for all direct care staff, including nurses, C.N.A.'s, rehab therapists; as well as by our Housekeeping staff. Additionally, all Dietary Services staff are required to wear facemasks and eye protection. I am pleased to report that we are adequately stocked with necessary PPE as well as with sanitizing and disinfecting chemicals/supplies.
- **Sanitization/Disinfection Schedules:** As per CDC Guidelines, our Housekeeping and Laundry schedules have been modified to include enhanced disinfection of "high-touch" surfaces and areas; as well as within procedures during post-discharge room cleanings/changes.
- **Staff Development Director's Education Plan:** Helene Weig, RN/BSN, has assumed the additional responsibilities related to COVID-19 Infection Prevention practices.



Helene's primary focus is on infection prevention, education, staff procedural competency, evaluation, and policy development.

- **Community Collaboration:** Our leadership team are active participants in Florida's weekly COVID-19 Medical Provider conference calls which include Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees and Florida AHCA Secretary Mary Mayhew; as well as in the Cleveland Clinic Martin Health's routine collaborative calls where updated information is disseminated and reviewed with all local senior care facilities.
- **Limited Visitation:** While we know there is no substitution for in-person visitation, we have developed a robust weekly schedule for electronic visitation via Facebook, Skype and organized "facility common-area window" visits. Our Activities, Social Services, and Marketing Outreach staff have worked many hours to provide opportunities for loved ones to check in and give encouragement to our residents and patients. We are hopeful that when we are all able to enter Florida's Reopening Plan Phase 3, we may see a degree of lessening in these restrictions.

The totality of the above efforts help illustrate our layered COVID-19 precautionary efforts, developed to keep our residents, patients, and team of staff as safe as possible in recent months; and as we continue in the months ahead. These efforts take dedication and commitment from our staff in cooperation with our residents, patients, their families and loved ones. We realize the sacrifices you all have made and thank you for entrusting us with your care and/or with the care of those whom you love.

Together we are strongest- and together we will remain diligent.

Sincerely,

Linda Winters

Linda C. Winters,
Administrator