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February 15, 2021

To Residents, Families, Friends, and Staff,

I hope this latest update finds you and your family well. In partnership with CVS Pharmacy, the facility has conducted three COVID-19 vaccine clinics for consenting residents and staff. Those who have consented have received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine. As of today, 71% of residents and 29% of employees have received the COVID-19 vaccine. We are optimistic that in the near future our pharmacy will be able to supply our center with vaccines for residents and employees who have not yet received the vaccine.

The question of the hour is “Now that residents and staff have been vaccinated, when will visitation and guidance be revised?” The simple answer is “not yet”. According to a recent call with Evan Schulman, Director, Division of Nursing Homes, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, there are several reasons that it is too soon for any guidance revisions:

- 1) It is too early – we need to get everyone a second dose and wait two weeks after that and we are not there yet. The decline in cases began prior to vaccination so it is not attributable solely to the vaccines.
- 2) We do not know yet if vaccines prevent transmission. We do know that it prevents people from getting sick, but it is possible that a person who has been vaccinated can transmit the virus to others.
- 3) It is too early to know if the vaccines protect against the variant strains.

We ask that all visitation guidelines continue to be followed as we await any new revisions to be announced. This includes only “2” visitors per resident, practice social distancing and all visitors and residents must wear a mask. Please understand that that we want everyone to be able to have visitors however, strict guidelines are still in place and must be followed. Although visitation guidelines have been challenging for everyone, we are confident that with continued focus on practicing the guidelines we are one step closer to a change. As weather continues to warm up, we hope to be offering more outdoor activities for the residents to enjoy under the tents with social distancing and appropriate infection control practices in place. The outdoor visitation has been a highlight with the patients since they enjoy being outside while visiting loved ones.

Collier County COVID positivity rates have dropped below 10% for the past 2 consecutive weeks. Routine staff testing for COVID-19 continues on a weekly basis. Please continue to monitor the facility’s website, <http://solarishealthcare.org/locations/imperial/> for updates.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me personally if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jamie Weis-Jones, Administrator