

FRIENDS HOME IN KENNETT

VISITATION UPDATE 3.25.21

As of March 24th, our vaccinated staff and residents have reached full immunity. It is at this time I can begin to take a deep breath and open our doors to our families and friends. Thank you everyone for your understanding and patience this past year while we navigated this COVID journey. I was hoping by this time the pandemic would be resolved, but even though our doors are opening, the pandemic is still very much a part of society.

My goal at this time is to allow residents to see their loved ones cautiously in order to minimize the chance of the Friends Home having to close up and isolate once again.

Beginning on Thursday March 25th the Friends Home and Linden Hall will be welcoming fully vaccinated visitors inside the building. We will continue to screen all staff, residents, and visitors daily.

All visitors must enter the building from the Linden Hall and Friends Home entrances off the State Street front parking lot. Everyone will be required to wear masks while in common areas. Indoor visits in Linden Hall may need to occur in the common areas if the roommate is unable to leave the room during a visit.

I am encouraging all nonvaccinated visitors to hold their visits outside until they are fully immune. Non vaccinated visitors can meet residents on the porch and in the Linden Hall patio maintaining the social distance and mask requirements. Due to square footage limitations, there may need to be restrictions on the number of guests per resident. This will be determined on a case-by-case scenario.

Residents may go out with family members, but we are asking that masks, social distancing and discretion be used to minimize the chance of exposure. Even though all our residents at this time are vaccinated or naturally immune, scientists still are not sure if vaccinated individuals can transmit the disease to others.

All residents in Jackson and Walton can now participate in activities and have their meals in the dining room. Masks need to be worn at all times unless eating or drinking.

As of April 1st, Community Life will not be able to transport residents to their doctors' appointments. This benefit was a special "COVID Response" by the Friends Home to minimize exposure while allowing residents to have necessary outside medical care. Families and friends are now able to transport residents to their appointments.

We are asking that all nonvaccinated personal continue to wear masks and social distance themselves during these situations. I will be reaching out to our volunteer driving group to see if they are comfortable resuming this service. I am continuing my search for another vehicle Friends Home could use solely for appointment transportation.

We will continue to monitor the positivity rate of Chester County to determine the testing frequency of staff and residents. At this time, Chester County is 4.8%. If the rate stays under 5%, we will not be testing asymptomatic residents and we will test staff every 4-6 weeks. This testing pattern will vary depending on the county rate and the COVID situation internally.

These protocols are all following state guidelines provided at this time. I will continue to monitor the situation locally and statewide and adjust as indicated.

I will notify all staff, residents, and families immediately if there is a change to any of these procedures. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

My wish for us all is that we can continue moving forward away from the COVID restrictions safely. I am being cautious and asking for everyone's support with our policies in order to keep our doors open now and in the future.

Any questions, please call me. Thank you!

Christine McDonald

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