

## WEEKLY UPDATE

12/3/2020

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as our weekly update regarding the status of COVID-19 in our facility. As the rapid increase in positive cases spreads throughout Maryland, and especially in Allegany County, we are deeply saddened to report a similar surge in cases at Allegany Health Nursing & Rehabilitation. In our current outbreak, we have 45 residents and 35 staff members positive for COVID-19. As disheartening as this news is, please know that we are doing everything in our power to contain the virus as much as possible and stop the spread. We have a unit dedicated solely to caring for our positive residents isolated from all other residents that utilizes only specific staff. If a staff member works on our “hot” unit, they will not be assigned to any other floor.

Due to our recent positive cases and the continued surge of positive cases throughout Allegany County, we are asking that all families refrain from dropping off any personal items or care packages at this time. Visitation also remains suspended until we complete two weeks of staff and resident testing without any positive cases. In the interim, please contact us and we would be happy to set up a virtual meeting (Zoom, Facetime, etc.) between you and your loved ones. We truly appreciate all of your patience and understanding during these most difficult of times.

As always, we are working hard to keep everyone in our community safe and we will continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility and we screen them for signs and symptoms of illness prior to entering. Our residents are continually monitored and staff is using PPE as recommended by the CDC. Staff is frequently reminded and encouraged to practice social distancing and to use hand sanitizer and frequently wash their hands when they are in the facility and out in the community. We ask them not to report to work if they have symptoms of illness.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at 301-777-5941.

Sincerely,

*Debra Buckalew*

Debra Buckalew  
Administrator