

St. Ann Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
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August 27, 2021

Greetings from St. Ann,

COVID Update:

The county positivity rate of COVID in Strafford County continues to tend up. On August 24th it was 6.0%, today it is now up to 8.1%. As this percentages continue to creep up, please be on the lookout for possible changes in our visitation as this pandemic continues to take a turn for the worst.

If you have not been vaccinated, please consider doing so. COVID continues to gain momentum and so long as there are so many out there that have not been vaccinated, the virus continues to mutate, spread and infect those who are vulnerable- especially children who are not yet eligible to get the vaccine.

COVID Vaccine Mandate:

On August 23, 2021, the staff here at St. Ann Rehab and all of the facilities of CCNH were issued a memo mandating that ALL staff are now expected, as a condition of employment, to have ALL staff fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021. Unvaccinated employees are expected to have their first COVID shot placed by September 13, 2021.

CCNH didn't enter into this decision lightly. While we respect personal choice as to healthcare decisions the safety of our residents and staff must come first. As the Delta variant and other mutations of the COVID-19 virus have introduced a new layer of risk to the health, safety and well-being of our staff, residents, family members and communities at large. Vaccinations are the best protection to mitigate the risk from this pandemic and so CCNH has taken a bold step to increase the vaccinated rate among our staff for the good of others.

Unvaccinated individuals seeking an exemption from this requirement for medical or religious reasons have the opportunity to present their exemption request and will be reviewed with the employee and members of CCNH Senior Management which includes the Director of Clinical Services; the Assistant VP of Healthcare Services; the Compliance Officer; and the VP of Human Resources.

This mandate has certainly brought forth a lot of discussion and now we are also faced with losing staff who may opt to not get the vaccine. I am truly sorry that things have come to this point and employees are now at a crossroads with what to do. Each has a difficult decision to make, but it is our hope that no matter what they choose- their decision is theirs to make and will be respected.

COVID Booster Shots:

If you are watching the news, there is much discussion about the need to have (or not) a COVID booster shot. We are working with our pharmacy and look to make booster shots available to staff, residents and the tenants of Bishop Gendron available sometime in September. More to come as we get possible dates as there will be consent forms that will need to be completed.

Life Enrichment update from last week:

The residents took part in a new craft- canvas balloon toss. Our pictures did not turn out like the YouTube video but we still managed to make a mess and have fun. The lesson we learned was add more paint and less water. Instead of focusing on just manicures this week, we turned it into a spa day. The residents were still able to have their manicures but were offered a foot soak along with a foot massage. This was a really big hit and we are looking forward to adding it to our calendar again next month. With the rain and humidity, we have been finding ourselves staying indoors more than we would like. We have been keeping busy with some table games as well as our monthly birthday party. The birthday party is a newer activity that the residents really enjoy. It also gives them a chance to bake and decorate. This month we did cupcakes. Another cooking activity this week was corn on the cob. The residents were discussing how they would love fresh corn on the cob. Saturday they got their fresh corn, along with being able to prepare it themselves. The residents shucked the corn and the staff cooked. Current events in the morning is another activity that has been a hit. The residents gather a couple times a week and will have a cup of coffee and discuss the newspaper. When I added this to the calendar I was thinking it would be a small group and would go a half hour or so. Every week I find more and more residents joining and after an hour the group is still going strong.

Staff Update:

Jesse Taylor, the Director of Social Services and Admission Director presented us with her resignation. Jesse has been here at St. Ann since January 2020, just before the pandemic hit. Jesse has been an asset to all of us when we were locked down with COVID, helping wherever she could and has been so helpful in coordinating family visits during this past 18 months. Her last day will be September 11th. We wish her the best in her next endeavors.

We hope you all stay healthy as the pandemic continues its ramp up. Please wear a mask when indoors, practice social distancing and thorough hand washing. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kindly,

Kate McCracken, LNHA, MHA

Administrator

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