



October 29, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Caregivers,

The Patriot, A Choice Community, is pleased to announce that the monthly COVID-19 testing of staff resulted in all negative results. We have implemented additional visitation within the green zone (third floor) of the facility and continue to facilitate Frontdoor/Outdoor visits. The Personal Care Area (second floor) has received reopening guidance this week, so families will get the visitation definitions in the near future.

NO residents that are in a 14-day quarantine period will be permitted to access the beautician, Frontdoor/Outdoor visits or participate in communal dining or activities.

Zoom calls and window visits will continue for those residents. We will quarantine residents that may show signs and symptoms related to COVID-19 OR have gone to physician follow up in an area that has higher COVID-19 cases. Please be advised phones with distinct extensions have been placed in every room on the first floor. Please call in to get that extension, then you can dial them direct at 814-443-0777 and enter the extension. Two additional phone lines are being added to the third floor with portable phones and should arrive in the coming days. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the frustration of trying to call and speak to your loved one.

We continue to work with the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and the Regional Response Health Collaboration Program (RRHCP) on additional follow-up measures. At this point, we are considered to be at a low-risk exposure based on the protective measures previously implemented. We also continue to practice the mitigation measures previously shared with you. As of Friday, September 11, 2020, the PA Department of Health required all staff to wear face shields or non-vented goggles in resident care areas in addition to all other protective measures in place since March of 2020.

On September 29, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced updated methodology to determine the rate of COVID-19 positivity in counties. Green Zone counties are now those with 20 or fewer tests for more than 14 days. Some counties will move to Yellow Zone due to the policy changes. These are counties with both fewer than 500 tests and fewer than 2,000 tests per 100,000 residents and a greater than 10% positivity for 14 days.

Department of Human Services, which oversees Personal Care (second floor) has yet to issue any guidance about additional visitation other than our Outdoor/Front Door visits. Please note: if we are cleared to do visitation on the third floor, CMS is recommended that any visitor must have a COVID test within seven days of additional reopening. You may want to reach out to your personal physician for guidance on getting the test done if necessary. Additional clarification was issued Tuesday October 13, 2020, and will visitation

guidelines will be sent to you by mail prior to reopening.

We continue to follow the guidance issued May 8, 2020, by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding our plan to notify you regarding COVID-19. Recorded mass phone messages and utilization of our facility website is our method of ongoing communication, which will provide the most current numbers of COVID-19 cases. This method of communication will provide the most current updates and number of cases (if any). Although we realize mass phone messages do not replace a personal call, you are welcome to reach out to us with any specific questions.

Our COVID-19 tests had been coordinated through a contracted lab and the specimens were collected by the facility's staff. The facility's initial round of testing was completed on July 1, 2020. The results revealed one positive staff member. On July 9, 2020, through our facility call blast and on July 10, 2020, family members were informed that one employee tested positive for COVID-19 through our homepage update letter. As a result of this positive test result, we continued to perform weekly testing of all residents and staff, with additional staff noted to be positive for COVID-19 through the month of July. All residents remained negative throughout the testing process. Because all staff and residents were noted to be negative based on testing completed August 5 and 6 as well as August 12 and 13, we were able to implement our reopening plan. The plan has been posted on our website for review:

<https://www.thepatriotcommunity.com/covid-19-updates>.

Please know that we extend our most sincere gratitude to you and yours as we continue to provide love and attention to those in our care as we all navigate these unprecedented times. As always, please contact the facility with any questions or concerns you may have at (814) 445-4549. Thank you from the staff of The Patriot, A Choice Community.

Sincerely,

**Barbara Smith, RNC, NHA,
PCHA Administrator**