



Friday, December 4, 2020

Dear Residents,

This has been a difficult Friday. I have been notified that one additional resident in Skilled Nursing has tested positive for COVID-19 this morning, with mild symptoms. I've also learned that two dietary staff members who work in Skilled Nursing have also tested positive. One staff member is symptomatic, the other does not have any symptoms. They are both at home on quarantine. Thankfully, our resident who is in the hospital is reported to be in stable condition. As of tomorrow one of our Independent Living residents will be off of quarantine, and the second will be off on Monday. Neither resident has develop any symptoms.

Our total number of cases as of today are:

- **Residents currently residing within Independent Living**
total: 2 (no change) | with symptoms: 0 | without symptoms at this time: 2
- **Residents currently residing within Penrose Harbor Skilled Nursing**
total: 13 (up 1 from yesterday) | with symptoms: 13 | without symptoms at this time: 0
- **Penrose Harbor staff recovering at home**
total: 10 (up 2 from yesterday) | with symptoms: 3 | without symptoms at this time: 7
- **Total Transfers of COVID-19 positive residents**
 - Penrose Harbor transfer to another facility: 1 (no change)
 - Penrose Harbor transfer to hospital: 1 (no change)
 - Residents originally residing in Independent Living admitted to Skilled Nursing: 1 (no change)
- **COVID-19-positive residents who have passed away:** 1 (no change)

I have received a couple of questions from Independent Living residents regarding the status of the vaccine and when Heron's Key residents can expect it to be available. The short answer: we don't know yet. The longer answer: We have been assigned Walgreen's Pharmacy for vaccine administration for the nursing home residents and staff. We received an email a few weeks ago with instructions on what would be needed to set up the administration clinic on site (space, etc..) and that we would receive an email from our assigned liaison soon. No specific timeline was stated.

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Penrose Harbor was required to register through a different government site for Assisted Living and The Lighthouse and have we have not yet heard back from that organization. There has been no information about how the vaccine will be distributed to Independent Living residents in senior communities, although people over the age of 65 have been identified as a priority. I'm hoping once we receive our contact with Walgreens they will be able to give us more information on how we can obtain vaccines for both Independent Living residents and staff.

The Washington State Department of Health has come out with a statement that they support prioritizing nursing home residents and staff in the first phase of vaccination. The Department of Health has also stated in a recent press release that even though they have a secondary review group through their western state pact that will need to approve the vaccine before distribution in Washington, that group will study the vaccine while it is being shipped so as not to affect timelines. At this point, we are cautiously optimistic that we will receive doses to vaccinate nursing home residents and staff by the end of December.

Here is a link to the draft Washington State Plan for distribution. The plan has not yet been finalized.

You'll note that seniors living in congregate settings such as ours are listed in the 1b phase of distribution. We'll continue to monitor information regarding vaccine availability closely and update you with any new information.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/WA-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan.pdf>

Shortened Url: <https://tinyurl.com/y4a9pr94>

If there are no changes to case numbers over the weekend, my next update will be on Monday. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our efforts.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy".