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since 1966... "Like Family"

Hello,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone physically well and emotionally strong. I am committed to keeping residents and families updated during the COVID-19 crisis. Once again, I am going to address some questions so that everyone receives the same information. I ask that you share the information in the Oakview newsletters with all involved family members as only one member of each family is included on our mailing list. Please continue to reach out to appropriate staff members with any questions or concerns. Take good care of yourself as we continue to take good care of your loved one.

Jannice Lamm, Oakview Administrator

1. Will the family/responsible party be notified if their loved one tests positive for COVID-19?

Answer: Yes, the family/responsible party will be notified immediately by nursing.

2. Will all families/responsible parties be notified in the event that Oakview has a resident who tests positive for COVID-19?

Answer: Yes, all families/responsible parties will be contacted by a member of the Social Services Department as soon as possible but no longer than 12 hours of identification.

3. Will all families/responsible parties be notified in the event a staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Answer: The District #10 Health Department will be contacted immediately and an internal investigation will begin to determine if and what residents were exposed to the staff member testing positive.

Families/responsible parties of all residents identified will be notified as soon as possible but no longer than 12 hours of identification.

4. Does Oakview have a plan to create a true isolation wing in the event of a COVID-19 positive resident?

Answer: Yes, the Oakview administrative staff have been working diligently on a plan in the event the COVID-19 enters the facility. Oakview has been closely following the recommendations from the CDC and MDHHS.

5. Will my loved one be moved to a different room?

Answer: There is a possibility that residents will be moved to different rooms in the event that we have a positive COVID-19 resident in the building. These moves will have to take place in order to make a true isolation wing in attempt to keep residents safe. We will make every effort to call families prior to the room changes but be aware this may not be possible if moves are needed quickly. Regardless, families will be kept informed but it may be after the move.

6. Will Oakview's plans change?

Answer: Yes, probably. This crisis is fluid and recommendations are changing daily, and sometimes more often.



How to Reach Residents:

Resident Cordless Phones:

General Side:
231-843-1496 & 231-233-4720

Sutter Living Center:
231-843-7172



Who to Call?

Oakview Medical Care: 231-845-5185

- Mary Jo, Director of Social Services – ext. #261 MClaire@oakviewmcf.com
- Mandy, Director of Activities – ext. #259 MOhman@Oakviewmcf.com
- Main Nurses Station – ext. #234
- SLC Nurses Station – ext. #257

Advance Directives & COVID-19

To some, it might seem a bit morbid or feel like fear-mongering to have these conversations but it is not. The need to have clear advance directives and discussions about health care wishes, including life support, is critical and realistic for all of us always, but especially now during this COVID-19 crisis. Advance Directives, also known as health care wishes or end-of-life wishes, are individualized and important to be discussed prior to an emergency situation.

There are serious to severe COVID-19 positive patients who are faced with the difficult decision of palliative care or life support. Palliative care for coronavirus typically involves an oxygen mask, morphine, and anti-anxiety medication to ease breathing. Life support could include feeding tube, dialysis, transfusions, and mechanical ventilation, a grueling experience that requires heavy sedation.

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is strongly recommending that all nursing homes encourage the discussion with residents and families on how they would like to be medically treated if they have a serious case of COVID-19. These conversations should include what matters most, the consideration of what he/she is willing to undergo for a chance to get better, what is considered quality of life, and clarification of who will be the health care advocate in the event a resident cannot speak for himself/herself.

The Oakview Social Services Department is in the process of updating the Code Status and Specific Medical Treatment Endorsements forms as appropriate. In addition, residents and families may be asked to consider if and when they would consider a transfer to the Emergency Room Department for evaluation and treatment. Residents and family members should not be alarmed by the telephone call and conversation but reassured on the proactive approach being taken. Please contact Mary Jo Claire, Director of Social Services, at 231-845-5185 ext. 261, or email at Mclaire@oakviewmcf.com, for questions or additional information.

I have an Advance Directive, not because I have a serious illness, but because I have a family. Ira Byock, MD

*My*Directives®