

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility
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July 16, 2020

Dear Family and Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well.

To continue updating you with important information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as our response and approach to prevention, we want to share the following information with you.

According to current regulatory guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health (OPH), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we continue testing all residents and staff on a weekly basis. The only exception is for individuals that have previously tested positive. However, if an individual in this category exhibits signs or symptoms, we will initiate follow up testing on those individuals.

We implemented weekly testing for residents and staff well in advance of the formal requirement to do so. Weekly testing was initiated at the direction of the agencies mentioned above. Our goal is to identify asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19, and ensure appropriate measures are implemented to protect our residents and staff from potential exposure. Over the last 9 weeks, all residents have tested negative, and only 7 employees tested positive – all were asymptomatic.

On July 14, 2020, CMS and LDH distributed information regarding a new initiative for Point of Care (POC) testing in all nursing homes in the country. POC testing will enable us to administer COVID-19 tests and obtain results within 15-20 minutes. CMS will provide the equipment and supplies to initiate this new process, which will enable us to administer tests and obtain results for approximately 20 individuals per hour. The timing of implementation is still unknown, but we expect more details soon. We will update you as soon as we have more information.

We have shared some of the following information with you through emails, text messages and website updates over the last several months. We want to offer a summary of the proactive

measures implemented to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our facility. These actions include, but are not limited to the following:

1. We established an isolation unit 2 – 3 weeks before our first positive case. As testing became more readily available, and positive cases were identified in our community, we anticipated that our residents and staff would be affected. St. Joseph Hall was dedicated as an isolation unit and is still functioning today.
2. We established a team of nursing staff to work exclusively on the COVID-19 isolation unit on St. Joseph Hall.
3. We hired a Service Master franchise in April 2020 to assist us with cleaning and disinfecting the entire facility.
4. We initiated weekly testing for residents and staff, approximately 5 weeks before it was a requirement.
5. We established a screening station at the main entrance for all staff members entering the facility.
6. We initiated a screening protocol for all residents for symptoms of COVID-19. This is done at least 3 times per day.
7. Our Infection Prevention and Control Program Committee meets on a regular basis to review updated regulations and regulatory guidance. The Committee is led by Amanda Wheeler, RN, Infection Preventionist. This Committee implements policies, procedures and protocols to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.
8. New wireless access points were installed throughout the facility, providing an enhanced guest wireless experience for our residents.
9. The activities and pastoral care staff implemented resident focused activities in small groups to ensure our residents are engaged and enjoy an enhanced level of social interaction. Individual room visits are also done by these staff members.
10. When outside visitation is allowed by LDH, we have established areas outside of the facility to accommodate this. These areas will be designed with resident and family privacy in mind, and ensure social distancing is maintained.

Community Update:

According to the LDH website, as of July 08, 2020, the percentage of positive cases of COVID-19 in St. Landry Parish increased by 37+ % from the week ending July 1, 2020. This represents an alarming trend, and we want you to know we are monitoring the situation closely. Increased incidence in the community affects our residents and puts them more at risk for community transmission.

We encourage you to visit the LDH website at www.ldh.la.gov for frequent updates. Their website has an extensive amount of education on defending against COVID-19. Please encourage family and friends to read this information and follow the recommendations to protect themselves and their loved ones.

As you probably know, younger age groups are testing positive for COVID-19 at a much higher rate than before. It may be the result of an increase in testing for this age group, or the fact that unnecessary risks are being taken. Regardless of the reason, this is a trend that needs to be reversed. If you have family members in this age group, please encourage them to be vigilant with handwashing, wearing a mask in public and maintain social distancing.

Please follow the recommendations and guidance issued by local, State and Federal agencies. We all must do our individual parts to prevent the spread of this disease!

Basic prevention steps include:

1. Wear a face mask that covers your mouth and nose and fits your face.
2. Stay at least six feet apart from others.
3. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.
4. Avoid touching your face – including when you put on or take off your mask.
5. Check your temperature often.

COVID-19 is a real threat. Please take it seriously. We encourage you to stay current with the latest information, avoid old information and opinions that suggest this is a hoax. According to current information from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, COVID-19 is killing on average 20 Louisiana residents every day. And this number is climbing fast. As of July 15, 2020, over 1,300 Louisianians were hospitalized with COVID-19. These are real, live people, our family, friends and neighbors.

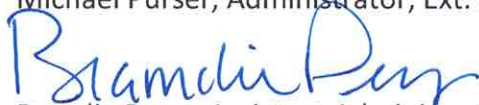
In closing, we want you to know that we are doing everything we can to keep this virus out of our facility. Our staff is working extremely hard to protect and care for our residents. We will continue to work with Federal, State and local agencies to ensure we have the most current information on COVID-19, and we will share this with you on a regular basis. Our website is updated frequently, and we encourage you to visit it often; www.promptsuccor.com.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We are here for you.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Purser, Administrator, Ext. 211



Brandie Perry, Assistant Administrator, Ext. 226