

5/11/2020

Dear Family and Friends of Orange Health Care,

We thank you again for your continued support of all the staff here and know that we are sending out our love and support to you during these difficult times. We know it was especially difficult during this past Mother's Day weekend being unable to visit; Many Facetime and Skype calls were made but we understand that doesn't take the place of a hug and a family gathering. Each one of us shares your feelings as we are also isolated from our families as we cannot risk exposing our loved ones at home. We all remain hopefully that this will be over soon.

Governor Lamont's Visitor Restrictions for all Skilled Nursing Facilities remain in effect for the protection of our vulnerable population and for the protection of any potential visitor. The Governor revisits these restrictions periodically and as soon as we know anything we will let you know.

The main purpose of my newsletter today is to discuss an initiative that the State of CT will be rolling out within the next two weeks and which you may hear things about in the news. This was announced to us on Saturday May 9, 2020. This initiative will require the testing of all residents in skilled nursing facilities to determine if they are positive or negative. Then they want facilities to cohort residents by results.

We do not want our families to be confused by this announcement because Orange Health Care Center has already taken this initiative, under the direction of our DNS Denise Mancuso, and swabbed ALL RESIDENTS by 4/27/2020. All of our residents were then cohorted (moved to different rooms) by diagnose. This has now enabled us to

tract their recovery time using the COVID RECOVERY definition supplied to us by the Department of Public Health and the CDC (see attached).

Once the resident meets the definition of Covid Recovered some of their isolation within the facility can be relaxed i.e. their room doors can be opened, they can be treated with less PPE on, they can begin to receive therapy (one at a time) in the therapy room. And, because we tested many of these residents in bulk (27 at a time) our hope is that many will reach recovery around the same time frame allowing us to begin to open entire wings allowing residents to at least walk or sit in the hallways and as the weather improves perhaps even sit outside.

Please understand that this does not mean visitors can be allowed inside or outside the building with residents. We are bound by the Governors Restrictions until such time as they are lifted. But it does mean that our residents will have more freedom within the building as time moves on. Window visits, Skype and Facetime calls are always welcome.

We continue to thank you for your support and please know we are thinking of all of you during these difficult times.

Most Sincerely,

Andree Acampora and the Staff of the Orange Health Care Center

Connecticut Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP)
Connecticut Department of Public Health

COVID RECOVERY DEFINED

5/4/2020

*The following is the latest CDC guidelines for patients, to be considered recovered and staff, to return to work.

* **THERE IS NO RETESTING** once a positive test has been obtained.

FOR PERSONS WHO TESTED POSITIVE AND HAD SYMPTOMS

Symptom-based strategy

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath}; **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

FOR PERSONS WHO TESTED POSITIVE BUT DID NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS

Time-based strategy

- 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.