

5/15/2020

Dear Families and Friends of Orange Health Care,

We hope this finds you well and able to enjoy some of Spring's best weather. At the facility we are starting to feel like Spring has finally Sprung as well. Although we mourn the passing of 3 of our beloved residents during this terrible COVID crisis we have finally started to see the light as we begin to turn the corner and start working on the recovery phase.

27 of our residents who tested positive have now met the Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines for recovery ([please see here for more information](#)). We anticipate that 12 more will reach their recovery stage by next week. Thanks to the foresight of our medical team and our facility-wide testing performed back in April we were able to determine every in-house resident's status at almost the same time. This enabled us to help determine recovery dates based on either the Time or Symptom Based Strategies.

*What does that mean for our residents? As my last newsletter stated, that doesn't mean visitation, although we continue to encourage Skype, Facetime, and window visits. Visitation is determined by the Governor's Office and set up for your protection as well as the protection of our negative patients. But what it does mean is more freedom for our residents within the facility; open doors, freer communication in the hallways, less PPE during care, no more paper plates, more interaction with all staff and as time goes on small groups on the patio, one on one in the therapy room and most importantly **FEELING BETTER FOR ALL!***

It has been a long and difficult road for everyone. For you as families, for our staff and most of all for our residents. Our facility has been on the forefront of prevention, testing, care and now recovery. We join the

battle with other nursing facilities against DPH and their wrongful findings against nursing facilities, including ours, during this COVID Crisis and support Governor Lamont in his firing of DPH Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell ([click here for article](#)) for her lack of leadership and poor guidance during this terrible crisis. Now was the time when guidance was needed not unfounded punitive measures ([click here for article](#)). History will show that facilities like ours who took initiative, sought out our own guidance and put our residents first have come out ahead.

We continue to thank you, our greatest champions, of your unwavering support during this crisis. Please know that we have never lost sight of how difficult this has been on all of you.

Happy Spring!

Most Sincerely,

Andree and All the Staff at Orange!!!