

Landis Homes Update July 20, 2020

In yesterday's LNP newspaper, Dr. Leon Kraybill, Geriatric Medicine Specialist with Penn Medicine, along with retired Millersville University professor, Dr. Mary Glazier shared helpful thoughts about the impact of COVID-19 on nursing homes in Lancaster County.

"It is a mistake to view the coronavirus outbreak in long-term care facilities as something we can consider apart from the outbreak in the rest of the community," said Dr. Glazier. "Protecting the residents of long-term care communities requires reducing infection rates in the community as a whole and investing in effective measures to prevent the spread of the virus into these facilities."

Dr. Kraybill shared six points about COVID-19 from a nursing home perspective:

- 1. COVID-19 is a current significant daily risk for long-term care. COVID-19 is more contagious, more deadly, more challenging to control, more variable in symptoms, and more difficult than other common infections.*
- 2. COVID-19 is a very contagious infectious disease that can spread before the individual shows symptoms. There are simple and proven measures to decrease spread — mask-wearing and physical distancing.*
- 3. COVID-19 restrictions are based on the benefits to all residents of the building and cannot be ethically made on an individual basis.*
- 4. COVID-19 enters a long-term care facility through people — staff members, medical providers, family members, visitors. If these people do not come to the facility, then the risk to residents is low.*
- 5. Once COVID-19 is present in a facility, it is very difficult to prevent spread, illness and death.*
- 6. Many facilities who give meticulous attention to infection prevention measures still have COVID-19 infections. The presence of COVID-19 infection does not imply substandard care. Rather, it emphasizes how difficult it is to identify and manage this disease.*

Dr. Kraybill notes "our societal frustration about an infectious disease starts to boil over into anger at restrictions, unhelpful discussions of freedom versus precautions, and loss of collaboration. To combat this, we must understand COVID-19 as best we can, see it as a threat to community health, and respond in a unified way."

Confirmed Cases & Testing

We are not aware of any new tests for symptoms. One test remains pending for a Residential Living resident. No positive cases have been identified from universal testing on July 9, although a few results remain outstanding. As we have shared and you have likely heard in the news, many test results are taking longer to process at this time.



PPE Update

The team at Landis Homes continues to practice infection control protocols, including the use of appropriate PPE. Our supplies are currently good but we continue to place orders to be prepared for the expected shortage that may come later this year.

Green Phase

All Residential Living residents should have received the Green Phase document in their mailbox the end of last week. The rollout of the reopening plan will continue through the summer and potentially beyond as we respond to changes in the county and on the Landis Homes campus. We are very pleased that thus far we have been able to continue moving forward. Later this week we will share a campus visitor guide that will include plans for reopening Healthcare and Personal Care as long as they remain free of COVID-19.

In the article mentioned earlier by Dr. Leon Kraybill, he also notes the increasing desire by all to restore in-person visitation for residents. "Infection prevention measures result in decreased social interaction for long-term care residents, leading to isolation and emotional distress. Family members yearn to visit loved ones to give and receive nurture."

It is important for each of us to remember – residents, team members, families and other visitors – that each decision we make, whether it is to eat out, travel, or go to a party, has a ripple effect that could keep residents from seeing their families. We must all work together to continue to practice the **3W's: Wearing a face covering, Watching your distance and Washing your hands** so we can all reunite as soon as possible.

Reminders:

- **Activity Logs** – please continue to note where you are going when you leave your home.
- **Updates Posted** – check the Landis Home website for regular COVID-19 updates. Family and friends have access to videos and written information at www.landishomes.org/COVID

Residents and family members may contact Jenny Sheckells with questions or concerns at jsheckells@landis.org or 717.381.3573.

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