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Landis Communities Update January 5, 2022

Greetings! What a blessing it is to begin another year as part of Landis Communities!

Donna Mack Shenk, Director of Pastoral Services at Landis Homes, shared this poem to start the new year:

A new day dawns,
a new year emerges.
Let us open our eyes and our ears.
A new day dawns,
there is Hope in every Sunrise and every Sunset
all around the world.
The light of Hope will guide us.
Let us entwine our hearts with God's,
and allow the eternal in us
to welcome
the wonder of each day.
--Christine Sine

We are grateful for the residents, clients, team members and all their families who have remained committed to keeping each other safe and healthy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hard to believe that we are approaching two years of life-changes to mitigate the spread of the virus. Your diligence has saved many lives! And even though case numbers are high right now, there is reason for hope! Vaccines are working – helping to keep those infected from needing hospitalization – and the Omicron variant is proving to be less severe than the original virus and previous strains.

Nonetheless, the need for vigilance with COVID-19 continues. Between December 15, 2021 and January 4, 2022, 8 residents or clients and 27 team members have tested positive across Landis Communities. Direct exposure to those infected has resulted in even more team members being unable to report to work. So while there is hope, there is still the need to do all we can to stop the spread of the virus and keep each other safe.

As we shared previously, perhaps our best effort is to encourage all who are eligible to **receive the booster dose of the vaccine**. Boosters are proving to be effective in protecting against Delta infections as well as the Omicron variant. We are encouraged that 90 people have signed up for second doses or booster shots at the vaccine clinic this week!

When in public, please **wear a surgical or KN95 mask over your mouth and nose**. These offer significantly better protection than a cloth mask.



Cultivating
Life, Together

Avoid large gatherings. Physical distancing is still important.

If you feel sick, stay home. Cold symptoms and fatigue are currently some of the most common things reported from those with the virus. If you have been in a situation where you feel you have been exposed, contact your provider/physician to find out if you should **get tested**. Please note that Landis Homes is not able to provide testing but is happy to share resources on where testing is available.

Team members throughout Landis Communities are taking additional precautions while the local transmission rate remains high. These include:

- Utilizing Zoom instead of in person meetings whenever possible
- Cancelling non-mandatory trainings and other gatherings
- Reinforcing the use of required PPE, including wearing goggles
- Designating additional, larger spaces for team breaks and meals

Residents and clients will experience changes in planned events, including bus trips. It is wise to avoid large group gatherings or events when possible. Small groups in settings where you can wear a mask and maintain physical distance is best at this time.

Visitors are asked to always screen in when arriving at a Landis Communities location. Please wear a mask when in public spaces. The use of a mask in resident accommodations is at the discretion of the resident. Do not visit others if you have any symptoms.

We believe that if we continue to practice the mitigation efforts shared here and throughout the pandemic, we can minimize the amount of spread. It is encouraging to note that there has been no resident to resident transmission identified on any of our campuses that we are aware of other than between spouses! We appreciate how careful and safe everyone has been and ask that you continue to do your part in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

May you continue to reflect on these words from the poem:

There is Hope in every Sunrise and every Sunset...

And

The light of Hope will guide us.

Let us entwine our hearts with God's

Blessings to you for health and peace,

Larry Zook
President/CEO

Evon Bergey
Vice President Operations/COO

P.S. Residents, clients and family members may contact Jenny Sheckells with questions or concerns at jsheckells@landis.org or 717.381.3573. You may find other communications and videos on our website: www.landiscommunities.org/COVID