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**Providence Point Personal Care Implementation Plan in Accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Interim Guidance for Personal Care Homes During COVID-19**

**\*\* Please note: This Implementation Plan can be halted or changed due to positive COVID-19 cases at Providence Point Personal Care or mandates from the federal, state or local governments. \*\***

The information provided in this Implementation Plan is an accurate representation of the facts and Providence Point Personal Care will adhere to the Implementation Plan as written. As the Administrator, I attest that Allegheny County is in the Green phase per the Governor's Reopening Plan. This Implementation Plan is posted on our website and available to all residents, families, advocates, such as the Ombudsman and the Dept. of Human Services, as requested. Providence Point Personal Care will progress to the next step of the Plan only when the criteria are met as described in the Interim Guidance for Personal Care Homes During COVID-19. If at any point during the Implementation Plan, Providence Point fails to meet the Plan criteria, I will ensure the Community ceases lifting restrictions immediately. Further, if at any point during the Plan, Providence Point is operating under a contingency staffing plan, I will ensure we cease the Plan immediately.

Kim Salvio, RN, MSN, PCHA, Personal Care Administrator

Date:

On March 13, the federal government (CMS), along with the Pennsylvania (PA) Department of Health and Department of Human Services mandated certain restrictions within their buildings to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). The vulnerable nature of the nursing home population combined with the inherent risks of congregate living in a healthcare setting, required aggressive efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within nursing homes. There were several restrictions including visits from family members and friends, communal dining and group activities.

The PA Dept. of Health moved Allegheny County into the green phase of the reopening of Pennsylvania on June 5, 2020 and has since issued "Interim Guidance for Personal Care Homes During COVID-19." The guidance provides Providence Point with guidelines to safely lift the restrictions imposed in March.

To safely lift restrictions, Providence Point Personal Care has met the PA Dept. of Human Services' prerequisites that included baseline universal testing for COVID-19. The first round of baseline testing was administered to both residents and staff and completed on April 23, 2020. In addition, a second round of baseline universal testing was administered to both residents and staff and completed August 7, 2020 in accordance with the June 26, 2020, Order of the Secretary of Health to be completed by August 31, 2020.

With more than 14 consecutive days without a new facility onset of COVID-19 cases and completion of all prerequisites in Step 1, Providence Point Personal Care will move to Step 2 of the PA DHS reopening plan.

Providence Point is aware of the potential for an increased number of COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in Allegheny County. In the event, Allegheny County would be required to return to the red phase under Governor Wolf's Reopening of Pennsylvania Plan, Providence Point would immediately halt all lifting of restriction plans and follow the guidance as set forth by the Governor's Office and the PA Dept. of Health. Residents and families would be notified of any changes to the Plan and restrictions that may be imposed and steps taken to implement including restrictions of visitations, communal dining and group activities.

Providence Point Personal Care's Plan includes the following:

**Testing:**

- Contracts have been signed with local labs to provide testing supplies and test analysis as needed.
- Testing supplies are available on site and additional supplies are available within 24 hours.
- Testing supplies are available in sufficient quantity to test all residents and staff for universal testing, outbreak exposure or if a resident or employee becomes symptomatic.
- Trained staff are available on site to administer testing to symptomatic or asymptomatic residents or staff.
- Testing is available within 24 hours of identifying symptomatic residents.
- Once volunteers and hair salon staff are permitted to resume their activities, they will be tested for COVID-19 prior to their first visit.
- Residents and staff that refuse COVID-19 testing, whether universal testing, symptomatic or exposure will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

**Cohorting:**

- All rooms in personal care are private rooms.
- Areas of the Skilled Nursing healthcare residence have been dedicated as:
  - Green zone-residents unexposed or tested negative for COVID-19.
  - Yellow zone-COVID-19 symptomatic or exposed residents awaiting testing and residents admitted from hospitals, home or other healthcare communities.
  - Red zone-residents that have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Personal Care will transfer symptomatic residents awaiting test results to the skilled nursing yellow zone. Positive residents will be transferred to the skilled nursing dedicated COVID-19 red zone.
- Residents will be transferred to appropriate zone as needed.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Providence Point's purchasing department reviews PPE daily and orders as appropriate to ensure that a supply is available for staff in areas other than yellow and red zones.
- Baptist Homes Society has a purchasing team that has created a stockpile of PPE and provides to staff in the yellow and red zones. The team reviews with Providence Point the amount of equipment used on a weekly basis.
- Both purchasing teams use their contracted suppliers to obtain PPE.
- Baptist Homes Society purchasing team reaches out to additional suppliers including PEMA and PA Dept. of Health to obtain PPE due to the national shortage. The team continues to obtain PPE to create a stockpile in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

## Staffing

- Providence Point Personal Care continues to exceed the PA Dept. of Human Services minimum daily staffing requirement.
- Staffing is reviewed daily and staffing is adjusted as needed including the usage of agency staff.
- Nonclinical staff assists in support in areas of activities and dining services.

## Screening Protocols

- Each individual that enters the building is required to wear a mask at all times when in the building.
- Each individual is reminded to use appropriate hand hygiene on entering and during their time in the building.
- Residents are:
  - Screened at a minimum of twice per day.
  - Monitored for temperature and pulse oximetry.
  - Screened twice daily for sore throat, cough, headache, body aches, chills, runny nose, congestion, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of smell or taste and diarrhea.
  - Screened for change in condition or complaints.
  - Assessed and, based on assessment, physician will be contacted to discuss testing of resident, if applicable.

Screening of residents will continue through the entire reopening plan and after as directed.

- Staff are screened prior to the beginning of every shift. They are screened for:
  - Temperature of 100° or higher.
  - COVID-19 related symptoms: sore throat, cough, headache, body aches, chills, runny nose, congestion, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of smell or taste and diarrhea.
  - Contact with a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive individual.
  - Travel out of the country or on a cruise.
  - Based on the temperature, symptoms, COVID-19 contact and travel, the employee will either be allowed to work or tested for COVID-19 and/or required to self-quarantine.

Screening of staff will continue through the entire reopening plan and after as directed.

- Visitors into resident rooms and resident areas are limited to contract staff, agency staff, essential healthcare providers and vendors, and visitors during compassionate care situations. They are screened every time they visit for:
  - Temperature of 100° or higher.
  - COVID-19 related symptoms: sore throat, cough, headache, body aches, chills, runny nose, congestion, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of smell or taste and diarrhea.
  - Contact with a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive individual.
  - Travel out of the country or on a cruise.
  - Based on the temperature, symptoms, COVID-19 contact and travel, the visitor will either be allowed to enter the building or denied entry and asked to self-quarantine.

Screening of visitors will continue through the entire reopening plan and after as directed.

- Visitors for resident visitation that occur in an indoor non-resident area will be screened prior to the visit for:
  - Temperature of 100° or higher.
  - COVID-19 related symptoms- sore throat, cough, headache, body aches, chills, runny nose, congestion, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of smell or taste and diarrhea.
  - Contact with a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive individual.
  - Travel out of the country or on a cruise.
  - Based on the temperature, symptoms, COVID-19 contact and travel, the visitor will either be allowed to enter the building or denied entry and asked to self-quarantine.
  - When Providence Point moves into step 3 of reopening, one on one visits may occur in the resident room if the resident is COVID-19 negative and cannot be transported to a visitation area.

Screening of visitors will continue through the entire reopening plan and after as directed.

- Volunteers and non-essential personnel (barber/beautician, etc.) are not permitted until step 3 of reopening. (Although some volunteers will be eligible in step 2 only for transporting residents for visits in the Providence Point Chapel.) They will be screened every time they visit for:
  - Temperature of 100° or higher.
  - COVID-19 related symptoms- sore throat, cough, headache, body aches, chills, runny nose, congestion, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of smell or taste and diarrhea.
  - Contact with a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive individual.
  - Travel out of the country or on a cruise.
  - Based on the temperature, symptoms, COVID-19 contact and travel, they will either be allowed to enter the building or denied entry and asked to self-quarantine.
  - Volunteers and non-essential staff will have infection control practices reviewed on first re-entry that includes hand hygiene, social distancing, wearing of mask and general infection control practices.
  - Volunteers and non-essential staff may only work with residents in the green zone.

Screening of volunteers and non-essential staff will continue through the entire reopening process and after as directed.

### **Communal Dining**

- Residents may eat in the dining rooms as long as the social distancing guidelines per the CDC and Pa. Dept. of Health are followed and they are COVID-19 negative.
- Residents are required to wear masks when traveling to and from the dining room.
- Staff wear masks at all times and sanitize dining areas between resident use. Gloves are used when appropriate.
- Staff assisting residents, while eating, will sanitize hands between residents.
- Meal service in the dining room is for lunch only. There will be three seatings for lunch, and each seating will last 40 minutes.
- Number of residents per seating will be at Allegheny County's indoor seating capacity. Current capacity is at 25%. Capacity will increase as allowed by state and county guidance.
- Tables will be spaced at 6 feet apart, two residents at a table and residents are separated by a plexiglass sneeze guard.
- Breakfast and dinner will continue to be served in resident rooms.

## Activities and Outings

- Residents will be able to attend activities as long as social distancing of at least 6 feet is maintained and they are not COVID-19 positive.
- Residents will be asked to wear a mask, sanitize hands and use appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Activity supplies will be single use when possible. Reusable items will be sanitized between use.
- All activity areas will be sanitized between use.
- Activity staff will wash/sanitize hands between resident contact and activities.
- Activities are planned on each resident floor.
- One-on-One activities are available for those residents who choose not to join a group.
- No social outings are scheduled at this time.

## Visitations

- Residents in the red and yellow zones will not be able to engage in in-person visitation due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure to other residents, staff and visitors.
- Residents, while in the red and yellow zones, will be able to participate in virtual visits with family and friends.
- Virtual visits are available for all residents in all zones.
- Guidelines for in-person visits for COVID-19 negative residents are as follows:
  - Visits will be conducted in the Providence Point Chapel.
  - Visits will be Wednesdays 1P-4P and Fridays 6P-8P.
  - Visits will last for 15 minutes.
  - Visits are by appointment only and must be scheduled in advance.
  - Immunocompromised residents will be scheduled for the first visits of the day to decrease their risk of airborne exposure.
  - Two visitors per resident. Visitors must be 18 years old. No animals allowed.
  - Visitors must be screened prior to the visit.
  - Visitors must wear a mask at all times, maintain a minimum of 6 feet social distance and stay behind the plexiglass divider during the visit.
  - Visitors must use hand sanitizer on entrance to and exit from the building and entrance to and exit from the chapel. Hand sanitizer is provided.
  - Visitation chairs, tables, plexiglass and touch points will be sanitized between each visit.
  - All packages, gifts or food, brought in for the resident, must be left at the screening desk.
  - Visitors not adhering to the social distancing guidance will be asked to leave the visitation area. Residents that have a physical encounter (hugging, kissing, etc.) with a visitor will be required to isolate for 14 days and no visits until the isolation period is completed in compliance with CMS and PA DOH guidance.

For more information regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Interim Guidance for Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities During COVID-19 dated July 31, 2020, and updated September 18, 2020, please click on the link below:

[https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Clearances-and-Licensing/Documents/Assisted%20Living%20Licensing/Interim%20PCH-ALR-ICF%20Facility%20Guidance%20Reopening%20UPDATED%2007292020\\_Final.pdf](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Clearances-and-Licensing/Documents/Assisted%20Living%20Licensing/Interim%20PCH-ALR-ICF%20Facility%20Guidance%20Reopening%20UPDATED%2007292020_Final.pdf)