

TO: Residents and Family Members of The Hermitage Healthcare
FROM: Bob Montgomery, Administrator
DATE: May 12, 2021
RE: Admission Freeze

On Tuesday, May 11th, The Hermitage Healthcare was notified by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in accordance with an order issued by the Department of Public Health on November 5th and 13th entitled “Implementation of Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Regarding Control of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities” there will be a ban on admissions to The Hermitage Healthcare. The Hermitage Healthcare is one of many nursing facilities throughout the Commonwealth that are affected by an admissions freeze.

An onsite survey (Form CMS-2567) was completed on April 14, 2021, and the written 2567 was issued on May 4, 2021. “The Department has determined that the Facility was cited for a deficiency at a scope and severity of “F” or higher:

F886 COVID-19 Testing-Residents & Staff CFR(s): 483.80 (h)(1)-(6)

CMS defines the scope and severity of an “F” level tag as **“No actual harm with potential for more than minimal harm that is not immediate jeopardy.”** In addition, defined as “widespread”.

F886 COVID-19 Testing Residents and Staff indicates that should the county positivity rate be below 5%, all employees are tested monthly, effective April 27, 2021, all unvaccinated employees are tested monthly in this scenario. The single employee cited was tested in both March and April, the timeframe covered by the survey.

MA DPH as outlined in Bulletin 162 states “...that at least 90% of staff, as defined in the DPH LTC Testing Guidance, who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are tested every week.” The facility has met the requirement of testing at least 90% of staff and as documented on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report dated April 8, 2021, and April 22, 2021, The Hermitage Healthcare with a testing compliance of 94% is considered In Compliance.

The facility has had no COVID-19 Resident Cases during 2021. 96% of the residents and 69% of the employees have been fully vaccinated.

We are committed and will continue our diligence with infection control protocols including but not limited to use of PPE in accordance with CDC and DPH guidelines; on-site infection control inspections through a 3rd party independent vendor, staff training and education, surveillance testing, and the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. We will continue working with EOHHS and DPH to submit a plan of correction (POC) and work collaboratively.

I have also attached the most up-to-date Methods of Communication that outline the variety of ways you can stay informed and receive updated information relative to COVID19. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

