

Family Update – Friday, August 7, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

Many of our staff and families continue to be affected by the devastation left by tropical storm Isaias. We hope you are back online very soon and have not experienced too much damage.

Many CT nursing homes have lost power and are working off of back-up generators. Mary Wade has been fortunate in not having lost power with this storm. However, we are ready in the event we should lose power. Our back-up generator is tested regularly and our Emergency Preparedness Plan is reviewed annually by our team and with all the entire staff.

Outdoor Visits – Visitor Entry through Finance

Access for visitors to our Gardens is again available through the Finance Office gate. It had been temporarily closed due to storm damage.

COVID

I am so happy to report that Mary Wade has had no coronavirus infection in four weeks. But we continue to be vigilant and thorough in our infection control procedures. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the entire staff in this effort and especially for the leadership demonstrated by Stan DeCosta, our Executive Director, Kara Taylor, Director of Clinical Services and Patricia Neeson, Staff Development and Infection Control Manager. They, along with their colleagues, continue to participate on regular calls with the Department of Public Health, Leading Age National and Leading Age-CT. They are current with what is happening nationally and on the state level with the virus and its containment.

Enjoy your weekend and we look forward to continuing to keep you updated. Remember, I enjoy hearing from you. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or by phone at 203-672-7810. Thank you.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter, President & CEO

Family Update – Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

Today, we welcomed Mayor Justin Elicker and New Haven's Director of Public Health Maritza Bond would wanted to personally express their appreciation to Mary Wade's front line caregivers. They learned what we have always known, that Mary Wade's employees are the BEST !

We have been fortunate to enjoy some recent wonderful summer days. Our residents have been outdoors enjoying the gardens, listening to music from our resident DJ (George), as well as entertained by our special musicians who get us all swaying to a happy beat!

Thank you for helping to make our visitation procedure as smooth as possible. Especially now during these summer months, it is so important that we continue to be vigilant and cautious in safeguarding our loved ones from possible infection.

New COVID Outbreak in Norwich Nursing Home

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, residents and staff of the Norwich nursing home that reported a new outbreak of COVID-19 this week. It is a reminder that this pandemic is far from over and that an outbreak can happen again. We at Mary Wade are committed to adhering to safety and infection control policy and procedures at all times. We also continue to work with our clinical and agency partners to encourage continued and regular point prevalence testing to quickly identify infections and respond with the appropriate and necessary protocols.

Summer Vacations and COVID Hot Spots

This summer presents many challenges (that is certainly an understatement). CT is in the enviable position of having a very low prevalence of infection unlike the vast majority of states right now that are on the [Travel Advisory list](#). Mary Wade is strongly discouraging any travel to or from these hot spot states. Visitors are asked if they have traveled recently and if they have visited or interacted with anyone from a state on the Travel Advisory List, they turned away and recommended 14-day quarantine. Keep in mind the danger or asymptomatic spread of the virus. There have been reported an increasing number of young people and children testing positive, with many displaying no symptoms at all.

Interim Report on COVID-19 Outbreak in CT Long Term Care

Governor Lamont's administration has received the interim report on the COVID-19 Outbreak in CT's Long Term Care facilities. The final report is due at the end of September. You can read the report [here](#). Also, in an earlier survey led by Yale School of Public Health and the CT Department of Public Health, it emphasized the importance of continued testing to effectively control infection. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Air Quality Improvements

In our recent Family Update, I reported on the installation of HEPA filters in our ventilation system. In fact, I am told that they HEPA filters would have restricted the air flow in our system. Instead, we installed MERV13 filters. The MERV13 filters are optimal for our particular ventilation system and perform similarly to the HEPA filters.

Thank you again for your support and the privilege of caring for your loved one. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend. You can always reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or by phone at 203-672-7810.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter, President & CEO

Family Update – Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

We hope you are safe and have weathered yesterday's tropical storm Isaias well. At Mary Wade, we had some branches down and a tree or two take some electrical wires. But our residential buildings never lost power (we do have an emergency generator backup) and everyone is safe and happy.

Outdoor Visits – Change in Visitor Entry

Access for visitors to our Gardens through the Finance Office is temporarily closed as a result of storm damage (fallen tree). For now, we ask that you enter through ADC parking lot. There is a gate to the right of the building which leads to the Gardens. Someone will of course meet you at the gate. PLEASE NOTE: the path from the gate to the meeting area is not paved and the ground is a bit uneven. If you think this will be a problem, please let Tiffany Burnham know by emailing her at tburnham@marywade.org. We will keep you updated when we will be able to reopen the Finance Office gate for your family visits. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Respite Program – Worry-Free Vacation

Many of you might be planning a get-away trip in the coming weeks. Or you might know of others who would like to do the same but need someone to care for an older relative or friend while they are away. Mary Wade provides a safe and friendly Respite Program for short term stays. The Respite Program provides the perfect program for both caregiver and client. If you know of a family who could use our Respite Program, have them contact Rosanne Mondrone at rmondrone@marywade.org or 203-562-7222.

Thank you again for support and trust in us in caring for your loved one. We do not take this lightly and want you to know that their health and safety are our priority. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or by phone at 203-672-7810. Thank you.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter, President & CEO

Family Update – Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

All of CT's nursing homes have reconnected to street power and, if you lost power during Storm Isaias, I hope that you are also back online and didn't incur significant damage.

Telling Our Stories

We are receiving national attention thanks to Grace Weissman-Spiegel-Davis's *Brief But Spectacular* segment on the PBS NewsHour. In case you missed it, [click here](#). I am reminded that our residents have countless stories to tell. And, we have much to learn from them. If you or your loved one would like to share your story, contact me directly or our Director of Development Lisa Hottin at lhottin@marywade.org.

Outdoor Visits – Visitor Entry through Finance

Just a reminder that access for visitors to our Gardens is again available through the Finance Office gate. It had been temporarily closed due to storm damage.

Air Filtration and Extraordinary Efforts to Prevent Infection

In previous updates I mentioned how Mary Wade is going above and beyond to improve its air flow and filtration systems. In addition, we are introducing new sanitizing and disinfecting equipment. In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing some of these new initiatives with you and how we are measuring their impact. Until then here is our **Statement on HVAC** that we share with you in previous updates.

Let me know if you would like us to share your story, and, of course if you have any comments or questions. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or by phone at 203-672-7810. Thank you.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter, President & CEO

Family Update – Tuesday, August 14, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

I am so happy to report that Mary Wade has not had a case of coronavirus in more than a month. According to the Department of Public Health recommendations, point prevalence testing is suspended after 14 days of negative COVID results, which is Mary Wade's current status.

While we are happy that we are COVID-free, it means that we need to be super vigilant. We have found that regular testing has been an effective method of quickly identifying and cohorting COVID cases, especially those who are asymptomatic. Mary Wade has voiced our concern about the DPH protocol and will continue to urge our policy makers to reconsider the testing protocols as we move forward.

Another Visit by the DPH

On Wednesday of this week, we welcomed our eighth visit by the DPH since March. Once again, Mary Wade passed with flying colors with the officials noting "no deficiencies". I thank the entire staff for continuing to do what they do so well, care for our residents with compassion and professionalism. Staff celebrated with cookies that afternoon.

Take Action: #Act4OlderAdults

Critical funding for aging services and support for older adults is being held up in Washington. I hope you will join me and all of us at Mary Wade to contact your representative to let them know that they need to "[Take Action](#)". Our member organization, LeadingAge has made it easy to send your message. [Click here](#) to let your voice be heard. It takes less than a minute and it will make an impact.

Air Quality Improvements

Our efforts to improve air quality at Mary Wade is multi-layered as described in our Statement on HVAC Protection Against the COVID-19 Virus issued in late June. In the past month, we installed HEPA filters in our main air conditioning units. The HEPA filters (high efficiency particulate air) are high efficiency filters that capture 99.5% of all particulate pollution. They are effective in capturing almost any size particle including viruses, bacteria, pollen, allergens and more. We have also increased the amount of fresh air circulation within the building.

I look forward to updating you with our progress on air quality as we introduce new equipment. Thank you again for your support and the privilege of caring for your loved one. You can always reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or by phone at 203-672-7810. Thank you and enjoy your weekend.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter, President & CEO