

Family Update – Friday, October 2, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

We close the week learning that at least three nursing homes in Connecticut are experiencing new outbreaks of Coronavirus infection.

It is clear the virus is still with us and I want you to know that we at Mary Wade remain ever vigilant in adhering to strict infection control procedures, safety protocols and cleaning standards.

This takes all of us to ensure the safety and health of our Mary Wade community. I personally appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we put into practice the guidelines and requirements put forth by the CT. Dept. of Public Health (DPH), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Testing

This week was week four of our testing protocol. We tested the final 25% of our entire staff as well as 100% of the Boardman staff. We expect to get the results back on Monday. We have had three consecutive weeks of testing our staff and each week we have 100% negative results.

Update on COVID

Last week we reported a Boardman resident tested positive upon admission to the hospital for an unrelated reason. I am very happy to report that our resident has returned and will quarantine for the next 14 days, in accordance with the CDC and DPH protocols.

Visitation

Last Tuesday we provided an update on the new visitation guidelines issued by CMS and DPH. Visitation will continue to be scheduled and will take place outdoors whenever practicable. Under certain circumstances indoor visits will happen in a designated area inside Mary Wade with the same guidelines set for outdoor visits such as the number of visitors allowed, universal masking etc. Visitors will need to continue to adhere to the core principles and staff will continue to monitor visits. Visits must be scheduled by email request sent to Tiffany Burnham at tburnham@marywade.org.

Thank you again for your patience and the privilege of caring for your loved one. They are an important member of our Mary Wade family and we take that very seriously.

Continue to reach out to me directly if you have any questions. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or 203-672-7810.

Sincerely,

David V. Hunter
President & CEO

Family Update – Friday, October 7, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

Our residents enjoyed a beautiful fall day outdoors this week for their Mary Wade Walk for Alzheimer's. The official walk was virtual this year and the Mary Wade Team made up of staff and families raised nearly \$1,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. We wanted to include our residents in a walk this year and the local WTNH television station was here to report on it.

Click here.

Flu Season

Mary Wade requires all of its staff to get the annual flu shot. It's important, especially this year. Please remember to get your flu shot too!

Testing

This week we returned to "week one" of our testing protocol as recommended by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH). For the last four weeks we have been testing 25% of our staff each week. I am happy to report that our staff has tested negative each week.

In addition, we tested all Boardman staff and related personnel, as well as all residents who live on the same floor as the resident who tested positive in the hospital. Everyone tested was negative.

Visitation

Mary Wade has made accommodations for indoor visitation when the outdoors is not practicable. Under certain circumstances indoor visits will happen in a designated area inside Mary Wade with the same guidelines set for outdoor visits such as the number of visitors allowed, universal masking, etc. Visitors will need to continue to adhere to the core principles and staff will continue to monitor visits. Visits must be scheduled by calling Tiffany Burnham at 203-672-7841.

Thank you again for your patience and the privilege of caring for your loved one. They are an important member of our Mary Wade family and we take that very seriously.

Continue to reach out to me directly if you have any questions. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or 203-672-7810.

Sincerely,

David V. Hunter
President & CEO

Family Update – Friday, October 16, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

I had the honor of being able to talk about Mary Wade on our local ABC-affiliate television station this week. It was great to be able to talk about our programs and our outstanding staff who care for our residents. While our residents will always come first, it's our employees who embrace our highest standards of quality, accountability and care, and who advance our mission. They are our heart and soul. To see the interview, ***click here***.

Testing

This week we conducted “week two cohort” of our testing protocol as recommended by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH). With our focus on compliance, each week we have been testing 25% of our staff. We continue to have all staff with negative COVID results.

Flu Season

Consistent with our very high standards, Mary Wade requires all of its staff to get the annual flu shot. It's important, especially this year. Please remember to get your flu shot too!

Visitation

Mary Wade has made accommodations for indoor visitation when the outdoors is not practicable. Under certain circumstances indoor visits will happen in a designated area inside Mary Wade with the same guidelines set for outdoor visits such as the number of visitors allowed, universal masking, etc. Visitors will need to continue to adhere to the core principles and staff will continue to monitor visits. Visits must be scheduled by calling Tiffany Burnham at 203-672-7841. This is in observance with the guidelines from the DPH.

Thank you again for your patience and the privilege of caring for your loved one. They are an important member of our Mary Wade family and we take that very seriously.

Continue to reach out to me directly if you have any questions. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or 203-672-7810.

Sincerely,

David V. Hunter
President & CEO

Family Update – Friday, October 23, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

As you know, Connecticut is seeing an uptick in infections over the last few weeks. We keep an eye on this very closely as we also learn of new infections reported in nursing homes throughout the state. There is a direct correlation between nursing home infections and the rate of infection within the community. So far, New Haven remains okay, but we continue to remain vigilant and strictly adhere to CDC and DPH guidelines and recommendations. The [Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker](#), available on the DPH website, is a good source of up to date information about our state and individual towns.

Project ECHO

We couldn't be prouder than to have our own Patty Neeson, Nurse Educator and Infection Control Officer, participating in Project ECHO. Patty was invited to serve as faculty with ECHO's National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network. This newest network within Project ECHO conducted its first webinar yesterday. Project ECHO is a learning platform for Healthcare professionals across the country to communicate and learn from one another. There have been and still are various ECHO topics that have been discussed and have learned best practices across the country regarding Healthcare topics such as Pain Management, Hepatitis C and Complex Medical Management to name a few.



From Patty: "With COVID 19 pandemic, it is imperative that we communicate across the country and world to determine best practice for combating this virus.

'Yesterday was the first COVID 19 ECHO for Skilled Nursing Facilities in the country. We use actual situations and case studies to see what was effective and use this as guidance for others to implement in their own facilities. The first ECHO hub in Connecticut consists of a faculty of Physicians, Nurses and Administrators and a Quality & Performance PHD with participants from 30 different skilled nursing facilities in Connecticut. This is a very important aspect since we are all following the Connecticut Department of Public Health directives and guidance."

To learn more about the Network and Project ECHO, [click here](#). Project ECHO

Testing

With our focus on compliance, each week we have been testing 25% of our staff. We continue to have all staff with negative COVID results. New testing protocols were issued by the

Commission on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) yesterday and which go into effect on November 1. We will update you on the new protocols next week.

Visitation – Can I bring items for my loved one?

We receive a number of questions regarding do's and don'ts while visiting your loved one. This one "can I bring items for my loved one? ...You absolutely can! Even if you do not have a scheduled appointment. First, call the front desk at 203-562-7777 and the receptionist will let you know when you can enter the building to drop off the item. Staff will be happy to take the items and deliver them to the resident's room. You may also bring food, however there is no eating or drinking during visitations. Remember that visits must be scheduled by calling Tiffany Burnham at 203-672-7841.

Thank you again for your patience and the privilege of caring for your loved one. They are an important member of our Mary Wade family and we take that very seriously.

Continue to reach out to me directly if you have any questions. You can reach me at dhunter@marywade.org or 203-672-7810.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter
President & CEO

Family Update – Friday, October 30, 2020

Dear Mary Wade Families,

The holiday season will soon be upon us and it will look very different from years past. In addition, we continue to see an increase in COVID infections throughout Connecticut. What you do, impacts the people we care for and our caregivers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued helpful guidelines for the holidays. ([click here](#)) We remind you to continue to be vigilant in keeping safe especially during this time...practice social distancing, wear a mask covering your nose and mouth, and wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Testing

Our latest testing of our staff continues to show negative results. In compliance with the new testing guidelines, we will be testing all staff on a weekly basis. The Department of Public Health (DPH) has issued these new guidelines as our nation experiences an uptick in infection rates. Prior to this change, the protocols had us testing 25% of the staff each week, with 100% of staff tested monthly.

Flu Shots – Reminder

Mary Wade's policy requires that all staff receive their annual flu shot. This week, our residents also received their flu shots. Have you? It's important to take care of yourself against the flu; especially if you are visiting your loved one at Mary Wade or anyone who might be susceptible.

A Time for Wisdom – Rosanne Mondrone

Rosanne Mondrone has contributed another one of her awesome essays from our staff perspective on the pandemic. The 7th in this series is most timely. I hope you will take a moment to read and reflect on our staff's experience. [Click here.](#)

Stan DeCosta

While this is not COVID related news, it is "family" news. Our Executive Director, Stan DeCosta will be leaving us to settle in warmer climes. Stan is making some big changes and moving to Florida where he is starting a new position and settling closer to his family. Stan has been an amazing administrator, an open communicator and a strong leader when leadership was most needed. I personally will miss his expertise and counsel. Stan will be deeply missed by all of us, especially our residents. His last day on campus is Wednesday, November 3. We are actively interviewing a successor and hope to have someone in place in the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your support and encourage. It means a lot to all of us. And, you can continue to reach out to me directly if you have any questions. Contact me at dhunter@marywade.org or 203-672-7810.

Stay well, stay safe,

David V. Hunter
President & CEO