



To: Residents and Staff
 From: Nadia N. Geigler, CEO *Nadia*
 Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021
 Re: COVID-19 Prevention and Protection

COVID Count

ACTIVE cases	
Residents	Staff
3	0

“+1” refers to a non-staff provider

RECOVERED cases	
Residents	Staff
26	47+8

“+8” refers to a non-staff provider

Last night we learned about a new positive case in an IL resident that appears to be unrelated to the previously reported IL resident positive cases. We are completing contact tracing and individualized communication to those impacted.

Test results for one of the recently reported positive cases in the IL resident population was inconclusive. This means that our final COVID count as of today is possibly at two but, in practice, the resident and our community will respond as if we have three cases.

Speaking of responding, we have responded to some inquiries into the vaccination status of the infected members of our community. We cannot share the vaccination status of an individual, even someone who has not been named broadly, because of how the contact tracing process works and our need to protect the health information of our community members. When administration reaches out to exposed/potentially exposed members of this community, we do not name the infected person but enough details are given (date, time, location, event) as part of the tracing process that identification of the infected person can be made. The linkage between that and their vaccination status is a violation of HIPAA. Beyond that concern, this level of detail is no longer relevant. Our community is nearly fully vaccinated and boosted and we are still seeing COVID cases pop up. Vaccines have helped, no doubt, but they are not enough.

In yesterday’s memo I offered up a list of behaviors and practices that offer safety to you and to others. Frequent handwashing, wearing masks, keeping distance, staying home when you’re not well, receiving the vaccine/booster.

It’s a small, simple list – and a familiar one at that. These behaviors and practices are what got us through relatively unscathed during the height of the pandemic and the months that followed. These practices should not be considered retired just yet. Even as we have had high vaccination and booster rates within residents and staff, we also know that breakthrough cases are possible in fully vaccinated people and that young children living with staff or visiting grandparents are just now eligible to receive the vaccine. I would encourage each of us to look with fresh eyes at how we are coming together for meetings, programs, dining, etc. Could there be opportunities to tighten up our practices and behaviors once again?

cc: Megan Callahan, HealthPro
 Andrew Whooley, Whoo’s Caring

Dr. Eric Mizuno, Medical Director
 Pamela Winkler, Rainbow Hospice