

# MARIAN MANOR HEALTHCARE CENTER

604 ASH AVE. EAST • PO Box 578, GLEN ULLIN, NORTH DAKOTA 58631 • (701) 348-3107

March 25, 2021

Dear Residents and families:

So many changes have happened recently that it is definitely time for an update. I'm sure many of you have noticed the significant changes coming from the federal CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the ND Department of Health as vaccination rates continue to increase. This letter reviews these changes and how they impact Marian Manor HealthCare Center as a federally funded long-term care facility.

On May 13th, CDC updated the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) to advise that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations. ***This does not apply to healthcare settings and means that staff, patients, residents and visitors should be screened and continue to wear masks, maintain social distancing and perform hand hygiene as recommended in all healthcare facilities.*** As I will discuss below, they have changed some requirements based on whether an individual is vaccinated or not as outlined in the CDC's [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) .

**As of today, May 25th, Marian Manor Healthcare Center has had all negative test results for 14 consecutive days and Morton County's positivity rate is below 5%.** We are in "ROUTINE" status which means:

- **Indoor visitation** will be permitted for all residents. See below for appointment information. If both resident and visitor(s) are fully vaccinated while alone in a room, the resident can choose to have close contact and to not wear a mask during the visit. If the visitor(s) are not fully vaccinated, a vaccinated resident can have close contact but all must wear a mask. If a resident is unvaccinated, they must maintain the 6 feet distancing from their visitor(s) and all are required to wear masks.
- **Dining and Activities:** Fully vaccinated residents may dine or participate in activities without face coverings or social distancing if all participating **residents are fully vaccinated**. If unvaccinated residents are present during communal dining or activities, then all resident should use face coverings and unvaccinated resident should physically distance from others.
- **COVID Testing:** Residents will not be included in the routine testing until there is a positive test; however, testing of symptomatic residents or staff can occur at any time regardless of vaccination status.

- **Resident Outings:** Residents may leave the facility, while understanding it comes with the risk of enhanced infection control measures upon return, including the potential for isolation based on the outings level of inherent risk. The nursing staff assess risk factors including the size of the gathering, location, how many in gathering are vaccinated, etc., and are any infection prevention practices in place, etc. Contact your resident's Resident Care Coordinator for more information:
  - **Residents living on 2 East – Emily Schneider RN ADON**
  - **Residents living on 200 – Lisa Conlon LPN RCC**
  - **Residents living on 300 – Jeanne Miller RN RCC**
- **An Outbreak of COVID-19** is defined as one staff or resident testing positive in the building. If in outbreak status, residents, **regardless of vaccination status**, should have a viral test every 3-7 days until no new cases are identified for 14 days. Indoor visitation is on hold during this time although resident can still visit outdoor with family and friends.

It is very exciting having the families back in the building. Our visiting hours are from 1 pm to 4 pm Monday through Saturday. **Beginning June 6<sup>th</sup>, visiting hours will also be expanded to Sunday from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.** Visits are still by appointment to manage the number of visitors in the building and for ensuring that all infection control practices such as screening, hand hygiene, mask coverings are in place.

Even with a pandemic, the construction of our kitchen and remodel of the dining room, chapel and nursing station is planned to start in June. This is a project that is long overdue and drastically needed as our kitchen equipment gets older and older. This will also provide a new nurse station on each wing. The estimated completion date is January 2022.

We continue to encourage residents and staff to get vaccinated so the resident's life can get back to pre-COVID days. I can't say enough for the residents and staff and how everyone has worked together to get through this pandemic. I do encourage all of you who are not vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated not only for you, your resident, and families but to help end the continued spread of this disease. It has definitely slowed down but it is still here. As long as it continues in the community, we have the risk of a positive test and everything starts over again. The most special moments I have had in the last month is seeing families having that first hug after a year, hold that great-grandson that they have only seen through a window, being able to sit by each other and hold hands, and seeing that wonderful smile that has been hidden by a mask. Please consider getting vaccinated so we can keep our doors open for everyone and end this pandemic.

Thank you for allowing us to care of your family member during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Sandy Gerving, Administrator