

October 26, 2020

A Message to Our Crane’s Mill Community,

We continue to perform weekly testing on all our residents and staff in Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living and have not identified anyone that is positive since May.

As reminders:

* Our [COVID-19 Resource Center](https://www.cranesmill.org/cranes-mill-coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/) on our website is updated regularly with the most accurate information, including the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.cranesmill.org/cranes-mill-coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/faq/) section.

We want to assure you that we continue to take a number of precautionary measures to help contain and control this highly contagious virus. **Your health and safety is our primary focus and concern!** We have adapted our policies and practices as the COVID-19 virus emerged and became very active in New Jersey. **The virus is still very active and most counties have seen an increase in cases in the last few weeks. We must remain vigilant in wearing masks and practicing social distancing.**

Here are some of the steps we started taking in early March and continue to take to help ensure the health and safety of residents and staff:

* Using symptoms guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health, we screen all employees before they enter the community for their shifts. Staff members are assigned to only one division to ensure they do not cross between different areas of the community.
* All residents with symptoms are tested for COVID-19 immediately and all residents are tested weekly. We also test all staff weekly.
* Any resident that does test positive or are presumed positive will be located in a specialized area of the skilled nursing separate from other residents.
* All staff have been wearing protective masks in the Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living/Memory Care units and when engaged in direct care activities. Staff working with COVID-19 positive residents are in full PPE (Gown, N95 Mask, face shield, gloves).
* All new admissions are tested and quarantined for fourteen days and are treated as though they are under investigation for Covid-19.
* All skilled and assisted living residents who are medically or physically able are provided a face mask.
* The dining areas have been closed, with meals delivered to residents.
* In addition to our extra cleaning and sanitizing, we have been practicing “social distancing” to limit contact among residents and staff so that we know which staff member has had contact with a resident.
* Essential Caregivers, Compassionate Care Visitors and End of Life visitors are permitted at the community with specific restrictions. The policy and application is located on the website and depending on the resident or facility status in regard to Covid-19, some requirements/restrictions may be applied.
* We continue to restrict non-essential contractors and volunteers from entering the community.
* We have also been monitoring every skilled and assisted living resident’s vital signs (temperature, BP and Pulse Ox).
* Our policy regarding outbreaks is on our website.
* Residents in skilled and assisted living only leave the community for medically necessary trips and are provided with face masks for protection.
* We continue to provide opportunities for face time for resident and family contact.

We will continue to provide brief weekly updates. A daily update will only be provided if there is a change in the number of new diagnosed cases. If we have positive resident cases, we will re-activate our secure family and resident portal and notify you of the new link and the new password. You will find all the information on our open website that will tell you what we are doing to mitigate the spread of the virus. Our [COVID-19 Resource Center](https://www.cranesmill.org/cranes-mill-coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/) is updated regularly with the most accurate information, including the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.cranesmill.org/cranes-mill-coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/faq/) section. It was recently updated to include updates to our Management of Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak Policy and our Essential Caregiver Policy.

We are also very appreciative of those Independent Living residents who are continuing to follow guidelines by limiting personal interaction, restricting their time in common areas, and wearing face masks at all times when you are out of your living quarters. We again remind our Independent Living residents that when you open your door to your living quarters, or leave, you **must** have a face mask with **both** your nose and your mouth covered. For our residents in Independent Living, we have opened the Café for pick-up of food and meals. The seating area in the lobby, café dining area and the dining room remains closed for your health and safety and request your cooperation in not congregating in these areas. We continue to provide meal delivery for those residents in Independent Living that order meals. The community continues to remain closed to entrance of general visitors and no visitor should be in the lobby, Town Square or the Café.

Thank you for the time that all of you have given to me in all of our zoom meetings, as well as our hallway chats. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to meet with all of you and to get to know you in these first few months here with all of you and as we move forward in this Pandemic.

Please direct questions and concerns to me at (973) 276-3006. If you need immediate assistance, please call the main number at 973-276-6700.

Thank you.

Marina Ferrer, MS, LNHA

VP and Executive Director