



November 19, 2020

Dear Residents & Family Members,

We are committed to keeping you informed of updates and changes of the impact of COVID-19 on our community. Please see the chart below for our current numbers related to positive COVID-19 cases for both residents and staff. These numbers are reflective from the very start of the pandemic. We have had one staff member test positive since the last update of November 18, 2020.

Yesterday we tested all residents who were in the building. This included residents in the nursing facility and assisted living. The results typically take 24 hours to be reported. A staff member from Friends House will let residents, who are their own responsible party know the results, and for those who are not their own responsible party then their designated family member will receive the results. Abiding by the new Maryland Department of Health directive, we will test all residents on the health care units weekly for the foreseeable future, even when we are no longer in an outbreak scenario. This is different than what was reported in yesterday's update.

At this time we will maintain our regular Friday, Saturday, and Sunday visiting schedule. However, all visits will be outside visits, regardless of the weather. If the weather is not conducive for residents to safely visit outside then we reserve the right to convert the visit to a window visit at the scheduled time so that residents may stay safely indoors.

Starting Friday, November 27, 2020 and going forward, all visits will occur between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. This is moving the visit start and end times up an hour to ensure they occur during daylight. Each visit will still be 30 minutes in length.

When we do come off of this outbreak, indoor visits will only be allowed to visitors who can show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the scheduled indoor visit. Otherwise, visitors will not be allowed in the building.

Families and visitors, it is extremely important to stay away if you are feeling any kind of illness. Many college students or family members may be coming home during this time. Please plan accordingly as we will allow a total of two unique visitors for all scheduled in-person visits with no sharing (time-splitting) of a visit with multiple visitors. Again, at this time only outside visits are be allowed, regardless of weather.

Updates about the development of a COVID-19 vaccination have been in the news lately. We are registered to receive our allotment of doses for both Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living when they become available. We will let everyone know when they are to be delivered to us.

We hope everyone who is able to is enjoying window visits with your loved one. If you would like to have a window visit on Thanksgiving Day, please call to schedule a time. Please call the front desk of Stabler Hall during regular business hours to schedule a time, or feel free to request a Skype or FaceTime call. The number is 301-924-7531.

Our visiting hours for window visits are 7 days a week, with limited afternoon hours (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) blocked for in-person visits. We ask that you limit your visits to 30 minutes per day so all families may have an opportunity to participate.

The added cost of testing and additional personal protective equipment has placed a heavy burden on communities like Friends House. Some have asked how they can help. If you feel so inclined and would like to contribute to helping our team during this time of the coronavirus, please contact Anne Derby at 301-924-7510 or aderby@friendshouse.com, or go to this link: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Giv3>.

Our latest results since the beginning of COVID-19 are:

	#Positives	#Deaths	#Returned to Work	#Became Negative	#Still Positive
Healthcare Residents	20	6	N/A (not applicable)	14	0
Staff	22	0	20	N/A (not applicable)	2

We will update the COVID-19 section of our website as new information is available.

We appreciate your continued support and understanding. We continue to work with The Maryland Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local health departments in monitoring the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Please remember that the virus has not gone away so it is still important to remain vigilant and stay healthy. Additionally, the influenza season is upon us, so please consider getting a flu-shot.

Stay Safe,
Friends House Management