



September 6, 2022

TO: Residents and Family Members

FROM: Loriman Looke, Executive Director and Administrator

As we approach two-and-a-half years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus keeps mutating, and highly contagious variants drive increases in transmission rates both locally and nationally. Here at the Anderson Inn at Quarry Hill, we periodically have residents and care team members contract COVID, similar to what we all see in the general community.

Quarry Hill continues to follow COVID-19 regulations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). When COVID cases occur at the Anderson Inn, contact tracing and targeted testing is done and results communicated to the CDC. The current base testing requirements of CMS necessitate regularly testing care team members, employed or contracted, who are not up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines, per the CDC's definition of what it means to be up-to-date. The frequency of this routine testing depends upon the level of transmission within our county, which has remained substantial-to-high for Knox County throughout the spring and summer months. And, please keep in mind that transmission-level criteria differ between healthcare and non-healthcare settings.

The pandemic trudges on, reflected in the ebb and flow of cases at the Anderson Inn. At this juncture, our leadership and care teams are solidly experienced in managing the day-to-day nuances of providing a home for and care to residents during the pandemic and have effectively navigated both individual COVID cases and outbreak statuses. With this said, it is time to move forward and to create as much of a home-like setting for the residents of the Inn as the regulations will allow.

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Here are the latest requirements, as well as some changes to our policies, effective immediately:

- We continue to be required to actively screen all who enter the Anderson Inn. Upon entering the Inn, please sanitize hands (dispensers are located in the Main Lobby and throughout the building). Visitors and care team members should put on a fresh mask each time they visit or start a new work shift.
- Residents already in the Anderson Inn may travel between units without needing to be screened at the Front Door Navigator desk in the Main Lobby.
- The van is open to full ridership once again. We ask that all riders mask, and also ask that social distancing be maintained as much as possible, realizing this will be dependent on the number of riders.
- While masking is recommended at all times, residents may remove their masks when participating in group activities.
- While not required, we suggest that residents and their guests, when visiting behind closed doors within the Inn, remain masked.
- Residents may have up to four guests visit at one time. Those who reside in a shared space, please be mindful of your companion and, when possible, enjoy your visit with loved ones in a different area. You may speak with a member of our care team to make such arrangements.

Our goal is to slowly resume resident-focused programming and activities to as close to their pre-pandemic state as possible. In the near future, resident activities calendars will showcase the return of some old favorites and the start of some new, so be watching for those. Furthermore, we are actively working towards resuming communal dining in the Inn's dining rooms. Soon residents will receive a dining survey, the answers to which will help us be responsive to resident needs and requests and guide us in a successful reopening.

The tiered approach we've all come to know—vaccination, masking, distancing and hand hygiene—continues to be the best way to avoid bringing COVID-19 into the Anderson Inn and unwittingly transmitting it to others. And please, if you are not feeling well, stay home.

You are welcome to reach out to me with specific questions or concerns by calling me on my direct line, 207-301-6275, or via email at [Loriman.Looke@mainehealth.org](mailto:Loriman.Looke@mainehealth.org).