

THE SUNRISER

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE

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On behalf of Sunny Hill's Administration and Administrative Staff, Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and the Will County Board, here's wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Easter!



Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines received Emergency Use Authorization from the Food and Drug Administration in December 2020. Since then, more than 300,000 COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered to residents and staff at nearly 1,600 long-term care facilities in Illinois through the work of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and local health departments. Similar programs ensuring the vulnerable residents of long-term care facilities receive COVID-19 vaccinations have been offered in every state.

Encouraged by the decline of COVID-19 cases across the country, and the availability of vaccines, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), released expanded nursing home visitation guidance on March 10, 2021 (QSO-20-39-NH revised). Separation from family and other loved ones has taken a physical and emotional toll on residents, and the revised guidance is a step towards reducing that burden.

Continuing to take precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, however, remains vitally important. At this time, not all nursing home residents and staff are fully vaccinated making it possible for them to still become infected by visitors. In addition, the CDC and public health experts are evaluating if individuals can spread COVID-19, including new variants, even if they are vaccinated.

Therefore, the CDC still recommends maintaining the infection prevention practices that reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing a face mask, performing hand hygiene, and maintaining 6 feet of physical distance from others.

Detailed within this edition is information pertaining to how these new changes will be implemented at Sunny Hill Nursing Home and impact day-to-day visitation affecting residents and their families.

Welcome back everyone. We are excited to see you!



Sunny Hill Administration:

Administrator Maggie McDowell, RN, LNHA
Assistant Administrator Jackie Palmer-Hosey, LNHA
Director of Nursing Debbie Stanko, RN
Assistant Director of Nursing Maureen McIntyre, RN
Assistant Director of Nursing Edita Evans, RN
Assistant Director of Nursing Kathie Miner, RN

Director of Finance Shelly Felkins
Admissions/Marketing Coordinator Charlotte Mather

Director of Food & Nutrition Services Julie Cherrington, LD/RD
Director of Environmental Services Ray Vicha

Director of Life Engagement Danette Krieger
Maintenance Supervisor Tyler Bargas
FNS Manager Crystal Smith

Nursing Department

MDS Nurses: Marbe Flores, RN

Joanne Crowder, RN Lori Chancey, RN

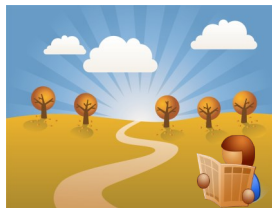
Nursing Supervisors:

Skin Care Grace Bambule, RN
 Jennifer Grace, RN

House Nursing Supervisors:

Evangeline Ba-ad, RN
 Milan Boril, RN
 Jennifer Calma, RN
 Ferdinand Cantor, RN
 Ruth Eromosole, RN
 Margarita Flores, RN

Munawar Gill, RN
 Alicia McLaughlin, RN
 Mardy Mon-Alon, RN
 Marizza St. Onge, RN
 Ray Wertelka, RN



The Sunrise

Published four times yearly for the
 Family Members and Community Friends of
 Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County
 For more information, offer suggestions
 or submit materials,

contact Jackie Palmer-Hosey, Asst. Administrator
 815-774-4375

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Dear Residents, Family Members and Community Friends,

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward" Nelson Mandela

Happy Easter and Happy Spring to all! Despite some recent setbacks regarding visitation, activities, dining and beauty shop we are ready to keep our heads pointed toward the sun and our feet moving forward. Sunny Hill has had to press the "pause" button related to visits, activities, dining, and the beauty shop. Testing for residents and staff will continue weekly for a minimum of 14 days without a positive Covid-19 case. Sunny Hill is anticipating reopening and resuming visitation, dining room dining, activities and beauty shop on or about April 15th, depending on testing results in the meantime.

Now that the weather is warming up and we can enjoy those rays of sunshine the outdoor tent "Hut Heaven" has been relocated to the lower level Courtyard patio area. This allows the Sunshine Room patio to be available for residents to come and go freely through the door without interruption. Visitation once resumed can occur in the tent area, and all three patios. Window and virtual visits continue with Life Engagement coordinating the process and Compassionate Care visits can occur at any time as scheduled with Social Services.

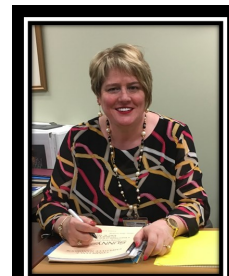
Sunny Hill's annual Licensure and Certification Survey occurred on March 15th for four days with five Surveyors from Illinois Department of Public Health. Subsequently, Life Safety and Emergency Preparedness Survey occurred for two days on March 23rd. Overall, the final outcome was positive in nature from all areas surveyed.

An additional vaccination clinic was held at Sunny Hill this week by our pharmacy provider and new residents who admitted were able to obtain their vaccination as well as additional staff members who had signed up. This clinic will occur biweekly for residents and staff and multiple staff have already registered for the upcoming clinic. Staff interest has increased as our pharmacy is administering the Moderna vaccine which is only one shot.

Essential Care Giver Program: NEW Person Centered Program is drafted and endorsed by Illinois Department of Public Health. Family member designated and involved will not be considered a "visitor" but someone essential to care delivery and residents well-being. This program will allow family members/other to assist resident directly. Training, coordination, and a contract is required. Will be assigning an Essential Care Giver Coordinator to assist with all aspects of this upcoming roll out but much groundwork and preparation is still needed. This program was placed on "hold" when Sunny Hill reopened on March 11th, however, having reevaluating the need, currently looking to continue to introduce this program based on potential outbreak situations. If essential caregivers are established regardless of Sunny Hills outbreak situation certain designated family members can still visit and be with their loved ones. More information to come in the mail!

May we all stay safe and blessed as we continue to
 navigate our journey and extend grateful thanks
 for each new day and pray for ongoing resilience,
 strength and wellness of our Sunny Hill family.
 Please stay physically distant but socially
 connected.

Maggie McDowell
 Administrator



MEMORIAL GIFTS

*The following MEMORIAL GIFTS have been received by
THE FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL.
The Families and Friends of these Residents and Loved Ones are in
our thoughts and prayers.*

LORRAINE BOSEO

Laurie Farkas
Thomas & Karen Sorbero

SHIRLEY JANDESKA

B & B Construction & Excavating Co.
Janet L. Falk

LAVERNE JUNKROSKI

Maggie McDowell

VERA KELLY

Maggie McDowell
Maureen McIntyre
Thomas & Karen Sorbero

JEREMIAH MCMAHON

Maggie McDowell

BARBARA ROLLHEISER

Maureen McIntyre
Lori Ryan
Thomas & Karen Sorbero

JAMIE WESLEY

Grundy County Rod & Gun Club

Maureen McIntyre

Lori Ryan
Sandy Zalewski

HOLIDAY 2020 "HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS"
CAMPAIGN DONORS

Mary Lynn Behringer

Marie Cimino

Illinois Tool Works, Inc.

Helen Jachinowski—In Memory of Thomas Boyd

Barbara Kursell—In Honor of Elna Anderson

James Montgomery

Charles and Janice Pacente

Cynthia Rull—In Memory of Edith Tindall and

Melvin C. Rull

Thomas and Karen Sedlacek



S.T.A.R.
Spontaneous Thanks
and Recognition



The following staff members have joined the ranks of those who are going above and beyond the call of duty and providing the best care possible to our residents and Sunny Hill. Department Heads, Supervisors and Family Members have nominated these employees since January 2021

Administration

Neal Querio
Pat Wendholt

Environmental Services

Yvonne Motley
Karry Dotson
Jordon Thurmond
Peter Wilda

Finance

Eddie Bradley (2)
Mary Ellen Levondowski

Food & Nutrition Services

Devon Brown
Andrea Quiroz (3)

Life Engagement

Betty Iwen
Danette Krieger
Kathleen Schubert

Maintenance

David Bibber
Sabar Gill (2)
Dan Willis

Receptionist

Karen Jackson (2)
Jennifer Rodriguez

Social Services/Admissions

Kaidy Read
Sherri Varek

Nursing

Mary Adelabu	Maureen McIntyre
Gregoria Arevalo	LaTonya McMickle (3)
Breanna Bishop	Monicka Mister
Graciela Duarte	Andrea Pena (2)
Margarita Flores	Susan Pershey
Nora Gashi	Stacia Purtell
Celine George	Noemi Rodriguez
Munawar Gill	Kristi Rover
Rebecca Hurley	Tiffany Wing
LaQuitta Jones	



At a glance, things to remember...regarding in person & exterior visitation (rev. 3/10/2021)

- The information contained in this outline supersedes and replaces previously issued guidance and recommendations regarding visitation.
- CMS in conjunction with CDC is emphasizing the importance of maintaining infection prevention practices, given the continued risk of Covid-19 transmission particularly in congregate care settings.
- Outline includes combined CMS/CDC guidelines as well as facility specific guidelines.
- Recognizing the effects of physical and social separation of residents from loved ones and the emotional toll this has exerted in many ways has necessitated an adjustment in visitation due to the effectiveness and overall impact of Covid-19 vaccination in Nursing Homes.
- Regardless of how visits are conducted there are certain core principles and best practices that must be adhered to at all times as follows:
- Screening, Hand hygiene, Face covering, Physical distancing, Signage posted, Cleaning & disinfecting, Use of PPE, Cohorting residents, and testing residents/staff per protocol and testing strategy plan
- Visitation will be person centered, considering the residents physical, mental and psychosocial well-being and support quality of life.
- Visitation will occur with provision of adequate degree of privacy
- Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of Covid-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave.

- Outdoor visitation is still preferred even if both parties are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and air-flow.
- Facility has accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visitation, on the Sunshine and 3rd Avenue patios as well as the lower level Courtyard. In addition, there is a tent "Hut Heaven" with propane heating and blankets from the blanket warmer available on the Sunshine patio.
- Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2- dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC's Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.
- Indoor visitation is allowed at all times and for all residents regardless of vaccination status except for a few circumstances as follows: Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is $>10\%$ **and** $<70\%$ of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated, residents with confirmed Covid-19 infection and residents in quarantine.
- Facilities can consider scheduling visits for a specified length of time, however SH will not be doing this as we have a large building footprint and ample space to accommodate visitation and still comply with the core principles of infection prevention
- Sunny Hill is limiting visitor movement in the facility as recommended and visitors should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area and not walk around different halls of the facility.
- While acknowledging the toll separation and isolation has taken there is no substitute for physical contact such as a warm embrace between a resident and their loved one.
- Therefore, if the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.
- Compassionate care visitation is permitted at all times and coordinated by Social Services if needed for any situation
- Indoor visitation may continue even in outbreak situations, however there are certain prerequisites to be fulfilled. To swiftly detect prevalence and positive cases facilities must adhere to CMS regulations and guidance for Covid-19 testing, including routine staff testing, testing of individuals with symptoms and outbreak testing.
- In all cases visitors will be notified about the Covid-19 exposure occurrences in the facility and outbreak status via emergency Call Em All system.



- Sunny Hill encourages visitors to become vaccinated when they have the opportunity but visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated.
- Federal and State surveyors, ombudsman are not required to be vaccinated and must be permitted entry to facilities unless they exhibit signs or symptoms of Covid-19.

These approaches and expectations are critical to maintaining ongoing resident, family and staff safety.
THANK YOU EVERYONE!



Mom's vaccinated:

WHEN CAN I VISIT HER NURSING HOME?

It is so great that your mom, dad or other loved ones have received their COVID-19 vaccine. This is an important step towards protecting their health, achieving herd immunity and returning to normal life.

Both CMS and CDC recognize the importance of visiting your relatives as part of staying healthy. You can now visit your loved ones inside when the positivity rate in your nursing home's county is less than 10%. In addition, if the positivity rate in your nursing home's county is more than 10%, and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated, then only residents who are fully vaccinated should receive visitors.

In the case of an outbreak at a facility, indoor visitation is still possible, as long as COVID-19 transmission is contained to a single area of the facility.

If your loved one is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with you as long as they are wearing a well-fitting face mask.

Outdoor visits are also safer when weather is good. You can check with your nursing home or local health department to find out more information on visiting your loved one. More information on CMS' visitation guidance can be found [here](#), including compassionate care visits and visitor vaccination.

We are constantly weighing the risks of spreading COVID-19 with the risks of expanding visitation. There are a few more steps before nursing homes can allow even more visitors.

Some nursing home residents and staff are not vaccinated or haven't received their second doses. **So, not everyone in a nursing home is protected from COVID-19 yet and could be infected by visitors.**

Also, **although a vaccinated person may not "feel" sick from COVID-19, they could be infected and/or spread the virus to others.** For example, if a vaccinated resident contracts the virus from a staff member or visitor, that resident will likely be protected from the disease, but could put an unvaccinated resident or staff member at serious risk.

For now, nursing home staff, patients, residents, and visitors need to **continue practicing the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance.** And, nursing homes must continue to implement all current CDC [infection control guidance](#) and adhere to CMS' regulations and guidance for [testing](#). **As vaccination increases and COVID-19 cases decrease, we look forward to more visitation and social interaction among residents, friends, family, and loved-ones.** We will continue to learn and make updates to visitation over the coming months.

So what can you do in the meantime? Get the vaccine when it's available to you. And do what you can to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are vaccinated, then if asked, explain why you chose to be vaccinated.

The sooner we have more people vaccinated and fewer people getting sick, the sooner we can visit and hug the nursing home residents we love.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/downloads/answering-residents-loved-ones-questions.pdf>

Together Through the Seasons®

National Skilled Nursing Care Week • May 9-15, 2021 / #NSNCW



The theme for National Skilled Nursing Care Week (NSNCW) 2021 is "Together Through the Seasons." NSNCW will take place May 9-15, 2021, and the theme will honor the collaborative commitment of skilled nursing care facilities and their staff in providing compassionate care to their residents during this unprecedented time.

Over the past year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, skilled care centers and their staff have shown an incredible and steadfast commitment to providing quality care and ensuring the safety of their residents.

NSNCW 2021 will focus on this collective effort and the amazing strength and dedication of those who work tirelessly every day to care for and protect frail, elderly, and disabled adults in long term care. With each new season comes new beginnings, new strategies, and new information. Together we will get through this and together we will begin to heal.





THE LEADER IN RESIDENT CENTERED CARE AND ACTIVE LIVING

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Find us on Facebook !
Search *Sunny Hill Nursing Home* and "like" us today.
You will find the most current information on what's
happening here at Sunny Hill.

We need your e-mail address! Please stop by reception or call
us at 815-727-8710 with your information.

SUNNY HILL'S WISH LIST!



Artificial spring and summer flowers
Birthday crowns
Old maid card games
50-100 large piece adult puzzles
Twistable crayons in large box
Adult coloring books (beginner level)
Assorted cookies, candies, potato chips

Call **Danette Krieger, Life Engagement
Director** at 815-727-8711 with any
questions



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2021

Gardening Club resumes
2 Good Friday
4 Easter Sunday
7 World Health Day
18-24 National Volunteer Week
22 Earth Day

May 2021

6-12 National Nurses Appreciation Week
9 Mother's Day
9-15 National Nursing Home Week
31 Memorial Day

June 2021

17-23 National Nursing Assistants Appreciation Week
14 Flag Day
14-20 National Men's Health Week
20 Father's Day

