



September 15, 2021

To all Seneca View Residents and Families:

Our ongoing twice weekly COVID-19 testing has identified one additional positive case among our caregiving staff. This disappointing news was received late yesterday and interrupted our seven day streak of no new cases among staff or residents. And, as we are all likely familiar with the process by now, the facility will remain on full precautions for an additional fourteen days until our twice weekly testing reveals no new COVID-19 cases.

This outbreak began in late August and so far we have experienced ten positive resident cases and nine positive staff cases. We also have two staff off work due to exposure quarantines. Sadly, we lost a 99 year old resident to COVID-19 late last week.

Seneca View had its eighth NYS Department of Health (DOH) Infection Control Survey this past Friday (9/10). After extensive review of our facility infection control policies, procedures, and practices, the facility was again found to be deficiency free. This is no small feat given the countless regulatory updates and required policy revisions since our last survey in December 2020. This is testament to the high quality of nursing leadership in place here, and the dedicated nursing staff that continue to prove they can maintain maximum precautions and beat this virus. The DOH had numerous compliments about many exemplary practices they observed our staff maintaining time and time again. We were grateful for this recognition and immediately shared that appreciation with our team.

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread in our community and that is the primary threat to our facility. Vaccination has been mandated for all staff at Schuyler Hospital and Seneca View, effective September 27, 2021. We have continually encouraged staff to get vaccinated since vaccines became available and we only have a handful of unvaccinated staff remaining. And, while some staff may choose to leave the organization in opposition to the vaccine, we are pleased to inform you that we continue to recruit and retain new fully vaccinated staff to join our team.

We will remain in close contact with DOH as we move through this current outbreak and we will provide you with updates as things change. Our general visitation remains under extensive restriction until the threat of further spreading has passed. Visits to residents on compassionate care, or end-of-life visitation, will not be interrupted although additional infection prevention

measures may be required of visitors. Please continue to contact your respective nursing units for the scheduling of those visits.

Please continue to monitor our **SCHUYLERHOSPITAL.ORG** website, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can also reach our State Ombudsman, Trish Chevallard, at (607)274-5492, if you need.

Warmest Regards,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Ryan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick J. Ryan
Executive Director LTC Services