

8/20/2021

To our Patients and Family Members,

We want to inform you that at Hart Care Center, we have identified 3 confirmed cases of Covid-19 among staff and no positive cases among residents. In response to these active staff cases, we are continuing to test our staff twice weekly and residents weekly. To reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, we continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We are staying in close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking the appropriate steps under the current circumstances. This includes restricting visitation until outbreak testing reveals no new active cases within residents or staff (except for situations such as end of life).

As we continue to see the cases rise in Georgia, it is important for all of us to remain diligent in following the updated recommendations by the CDC and DPH. There is no doubt the COVID-19 "Delta" variant is changing the course of this pandemic. Because this variant is more infectious and transmissible, infections, hospitalizations and deaths are rapidly increasing. Although we have made progress during the last 18 months in the fight against this virus, there are still no treatments available for COVID-19. Therefore, the current rate of infection across our nation and state is very concerning.

While holistic health care decisions are personal and influenced by many factors, we believe the science and research supports the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine. It has been extremely effective in reducing the number of cases, as well as the severity of illness in long-term care settings.

It is important you remain vigilant in the steps you are taking on a daily basis to protect your own health by avoiding crowds, practicing social distancing, washing your hands properly, wearing a facemask when you are in close contact with others, and monitoring yourself for any signs and symptoms of illness.

All of us at Hart Care Center understand that this is a serious situation. We will continue to provide you with regular updates about the situation and will promptly notify you if we identify any additional residents or staff with confirmed COVID-19. We will also provide prompt updates regarding the status of visitation and when it may resume.

We encourage you to contact us with questions and concerns. Please call us at (706) 376-7121 or visit our website at [hartcarecenter.org](http://hartcarecenter.org) for updates and links to current CDC, DPH, and CMS guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cole Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Administrator

