



Hart Care Center, Inc.

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To our Patients and Family Members:

Currently, our center **does not have any active** COVID patient cases and one active COVID staff case. We continue to test our staff twice weekly and residents weekly. Data from the Department of Public Health Weekly Report for this week shows that 143 Georgia counties are now in the red classification of an outbreak, 16 counties are in the yellow classification and 0 are in the green classification. Hart County remains in the red classification with a 17.7% positivity rate.

As we continue to learn more about the new "Delta" variant, we are adjusting our plans and working diligently to protect the safety and wellbeing of our patients and staff. To reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, we continue to follow guidance from the CDC and the Center for Medicare & 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.

As we see the cases rise in Georgia, it is important for all of us to remain diligent in following the recommendations by the CDC. This includes getting vaccinated. The facts are clear. The COVID-19 vaccine saves lives. Vaccinated people are rarely hospitalized or die from COVID related complications. With increased acceptance of the vaccine, we can continue to make progress, hug our loved ones and not live in overshadowing fear. Therefore, we continue to encourage and offer the vaccine to our patients and staff. We continue to collaborate with our local resources to make the vaccine available for our associates and patients.

We also recommend if you haven't already, that you get vaccinated to protect yourself and your loved ones. The vaccines are proven safe and effective. Millions of people in the United States have received the vaccine under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. If you are fully vaccinated, to reduce the risk of being infected with the Delta variant and possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. If you are fully vaccinated and exposed to someone with COVID, the CDC recommends you be tested for COVID 3-5 days after exposure. If you are unvaccinated, we ask you to remain vigilant in the steps you are taking to protect your own health by avoiding crowds, practicing social distancing, washing your hands properly, wearing a face mask when you are in close contact with others, and monitoring yourself for any signs and symptoms of illness.

We know you may have questions about the vaccine and/or the rise in cases. We encourage you to contact us with questions and concerns. Please call us at 706-376-7121. You may also visit our website [hartcarecenter.org] for the most recent updates.

The safety of our patients and staff is our top priority.

Cole Meeks

Administrator