

Week of November 9, 2020

Nathaniel Witherell Update

Dear Friends and Families,

Greetings from Nathaniel Witherell. Please read on for the latest news about our TNW family.

Visitation

As of today, we have 3 COVID-19 positive employee cases. The latest test was drawn/conducted on November 10, 2020. As a result, indoor 30-minute family visits in the Auditorium have been suspended. Outdoor visits will continue in the Courtyard/Friendship Garden, weather permitting. ***If we have no new positive cases*** within the next 14 days, our tentative date for re-opening for indoor visits would be November 25, 2020.

Therapeutic Recreation

This Veterans Day we honored and celebrated 15 military veterans at Nathaniel Witherell with patriotic music by Vin and Mike. Thank you to all who have served in the United States Armed Forces. This week residents enjoyed fresh air and sun in the courtyard, an afternoon coffee cart, baking mini-pizzas, dance exercise, November trivia, bingo and daily music entertainment.

If a visitor is unable to attend a visitation, families are requested to remove the sign-up on the scheduling platform in order for other families to make use of the time. Visitation slots cannot be exchanged or swapped between families to ensure the accuracy and efficiency of our patient transport arrangements and scheduling management.

The November activity calendar is now available here:

<https://www.thenathanielwitherell.org/calendar/>

In order to accommodate all NW family visit requests, we kindly ask that you do not sign up for more than one visit in one week.

Package Drop Offs

2 Attachments

Please find (2) attachments for your review:

1. Is LeadingAge's Stop the Spread Toolkit, which has some useful COVID-19 information and resources for your reference.
2. Is the Photo Resident Consent Form, which will permit us to post photos/images of your loved ones here at TNW, if you so choose. The photos would enable us to provide an enhanced experience for family members by posting images on Social Media sites like Facebook and Instagram, but only with your consent.

Please be advised that anyone dropping off items at TNW must adhere to the following protocols:

1. Items brought to the main entrance door or any other undesignated drop off area, will not be accepted.
2. The designated drop off area is the breezeway by the Friendship Garden (Ambulance bay by the black gate). Items must be dropped off at this location. Acceptable items include clothing and flowers in a vase or container. Bouquets without containers will not be accepted.
3. The following items will not be accepted at any area of the facility:
 - a. **Food**
 - b. **Beverages**
 - c. **Candy**
 - d. **Baked goods**

These items will be discarded.

Documents for review and/or signature, must be mailed to the specific department for which they are intended.

4. New admissions' clothing may be brought to their room to be labeled and then laundered. Any other new admission items must be delivered to the breezeway by the Friendship Garden (Ambulance bay by the black gate) to be quarantined, inspected and disinfected.

In Other News

Family Council

Nathaniel Witherell has a Family Council whose mission is to support Resident Life and connect with other family members. This mission is especially important during the pandemic. In the spirit of the fast approaching holiday season, the Council is currently working to create expressions of cheer to brighten Resident Life and would love to have the involvement of all family members! To become a member of the Family Council, please email Jenny Larkin at jennylarkin001@gmail.com

That is the news from Nathaniel Witherell for this week.

Stay healthy and be well,

John

John Mastronardi
Executive Director
Nathaniel Witherell
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Thank you to the following Team & Family Council members who contributed to our weekly update:

*Nadia Benson, Deputy & Director of Nursing
Carissa Ronish, Therapeutic Recreation Administrator
Scott Neff, Executive Director, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell
Mary Tate, Volunteer Coordinator
Louise Comeau, MDS Coordinator
Justine Vaccaro, Director of Social Work
Kevince Louis-Pierre Etienne, Dining Services Director
John Liongson, Medical Data Analyst*

Jenny Larkin, Family Council

Suzanne Brown, RN CCM, Care Manager- Advocate-Consultant, Family Council



Our “Stop the Spread” Campaign Toolkit

Let’s Work to Keep Covid-19 from Spreading!

LeadingAge Connecticut has launched a member driven campaign to stop the spread of Covid-19 within our member nursing homes. As community prevalence rises, we need to remain vigilant and intensify our efforts to keep the virus from entering the nursing home and spreading to our residents. So, we ask you to join us in our campaign to prevent the spread of the virus to residents!

To help you and your staff achieve this goal, we will be sending out regular messages with ideas, information, and inspiration. And we also ask that you share your ideas with us so that we can grow a reference library of best practices and great ideas that all members can access.

We encourage you to enlist your staff in the effort to develop new ideas!

To get us started, we have assembled this toolkit of resources for you to use in your Stop the Spread Campaign!

Infection Control Self-Auditing Tool

The need to amplify supervision, oversight and self-auditing has been emphasized by DPH. CMS [QSO-20-38-NH](#) includes a *COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes* that can be used by a nursing home to conduct a [review and self-audit](#) of their infection control practices throughout the campus. *A reminder from DPH that infection control audits and staff education must include dietary and housekeeping staff.*

CMS’s Targeted COVID-19 Infection Control Training for Front-line Nursing Home Staff and Management

The CMS targeted Covid-19 Infection Control Training can be accessed [here](#). The training is not required, but it has helpful information and is a good, proactive step to take to stay up to date on infection control practices.

[CDC Project Firstline Training](#)

[CDC Project Firstline Facebook Page](#)

ECHO Sign-up Still Available Nursing Homes

If you are interested in participating in the Connecticut Nursing Home COVID-19 Project ECHO, information can be found here: [Connecticut Nursing Home COVID-19 Safety Program ECHO Registration](#)

Resources from the DPH Staffing Summit

Please find the following resources from the DPH Nursing Home Staffing Summit held on October 30:

[Dr. Leung's Presentation at the Staffing Summit – Staffing in the Time of Covid](#)
[Yale Study Staffing Summit Presentation on Connectiveness of Nursing Homes](#)
[Temporary CNA positions](#)

Assessing Exposure and Need for Quarantine When a Staff Member or Resident Tests Positive

DPH Epidemiology provided [the following guideline](#) for using the CDC risk assessment to determine exposure when incorporating the new CDC [close contact](#) guidance. *These are important guidelines to follow when determining how to cohort your residents after a staff member tests positive.*

Safe Holiday Guidance

Holiday guidance has been issued by the state and the CDC. This guidance should be shared with staff and resident families. *Please emphasis to staff the need for all of us to practice good infection control and prevention during the holidays!*

[CT Holiday Guidance](#)

CDC guidance on [All Holiday Travel](#), [Thanksgiving](#), [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#), and for [People with Increased Risk Exposure](#).

LeadingAge National Pandemic Playbook

LeadingAge national has just released their Pandemic Playbook, an interactive collection of insight, wisdom, and best practices for serving older adults during a catastrophic health crisis like the one we're facing now. Visit the Playbook at playbook.leadingage.org.

Supplementing Your Care Partner Testing with Your Antigen Machine

The [CDC Antigen Algorithm](#) will provide guidance on the use of your antigen testing machine. *Make sure you have a good supply of antigen test kits.*

CDC Resources on Vaccines

HHS put out these links to information about vaccines and vaccine education:

- Vaccines: CDC updated [general information](#) related to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine: CDC released a summary of the [benefits of COVID-19 vaccination](#) based on what we currently know. CDC will continue to update this page as more data become available.
- Busting Myths and Misconceptions about COVID-19 Vaccination: CDC released information to [bust myths and misconceptions](#) about COVID-29 vaccination.
- Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination: CDC updated [FAQs about the COVID-19 vaccination](#).

- Although CDC does not have a role in developing COVID-19 vaccines, CDC has been working closely with health departments and partners to develop vaccination plans for when a vaccine is available. CDC is working with partners at all levels, including healthcare associations, on flexible COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios.

Important Resources Links

- State of [State of CT Covid-19 Resource Page](#)
- Connecticut Executive and Commissioner Orders can be found [here](#).
- DPH Blast Faxes can be found [here](#).
- DPH Practitioner and Facility Guidance documents can be found [here](#).
- [CDC Covid19](#)
- [CMS Covid 19](#)
- [CT DSS Covid19](#)

NATHANIEL WITHERELL

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF RESIDENT/PATIENT

PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Nathaniel Witherell Resident/Patient:

_____ Date: _____

In addition to the Nathaniel Witherell (NW) internal newsletter, I understand and authorize that use of photograph(s) of the above named resident/patient may be used for any external print and social media purposes, including the NW website, NW Facebook, NW Twitter, NW YouTube, NW blog, NW printed/digital promotional materials & advertising, TV/radio, newspapers/magazines.

I understand that I am not required to sign this Authorization as a condition of treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility for benefits.

Period of Authorization: This authorization is for these express purposes while the Resident/Patient is living at Nathaniel Witherell.

Disclosure: I understand that this Authorization does not include any personal information but limited to photographs only.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read/understand this Authorization/Release.

_____ Signature of Resident or Resident's

Responsible Party

If signed by Resident's Responsible Party, print name and describe relationship to resident or other authority to act. _____

If Responsible Party can only be reached by phone, print staff name who received verbal or email authorization: _____