

Week of February 15, 2021

Nathaniel Witherell Update

Dear Friends and Families,

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Recap

TNW has conducted six COVID-19 vaccination clinics for residents and staff.

Completed clinic dates are as follows:

1. Saturday, December 26, 2020 10 AM-4PM
2. Monday, January 04, 2021 10 AM-4PM
3. Saturday, January 16, 2021 10 AM-4PM
4. Monday, January 25, 2021 10 AM-4PM
5. Saturday, February 6, 2021 10 AM-4 PM
6. Monday, February 15, 2021 10 AM-4 PM

We are in contact with our vaccine clinic partner Omnicare/CVS Pharmacy on a weekly basis for any updates on additional vaccine clinics for TNW. There is no news as of this writing, but we will post any clinic updates on our website.

Speaking of website updates, this will be the final Family E-mail Blast from TNW. Due to the demands and time-constraints related to leading and managing the daily operations of our facility, updates that are significant will be posted on our website on a go forward basis.

COVID-19 Staff Education

- In response to a low vaccination rate among staff, which has remained at 35%, Dr. Walsh (Medical Director), Nadia Benson (Deputy & Director of Nursing) and Chris Ann Bennett (Infection Preventionist), conducted COVID-19 vaccine Town Hall meetings and

Q & As with staff during the vaccine clinic roll out. The initial Town Hall was well attended and also had a COVID-19 webinar by the Town of Greenwich.

- Despite staff not attending our second scheduled Town Hall, we are continuing to schedule Town Halls and Q&A sessions for staff to let them know that the vaccine is safe and effective.
- Dr. Walsh, Nadia and Chris Ann continue to talk 1:1 and 1:2 with staff about the vaccine as they make their daily rounds.
- Since COVID testing began, Nadia has worked every Sunday testing staff members.
- Nadia and Chris Ann have worked every vaccine clinic.
- A COVID-19 educational presentation by Phreesia, and a separate Power Point presentation were distributed to staff and 1:1 and 1:2 follow-ups have been ongoing during daily rounds, if staff has any questions or concerns related to the vaccine. See the attachment and the following link (press Ctrl and left click mouse):
https://www.phreesia.com/webinar-replay-covid-vaccine/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWVRBME5HUTVOemt5WWpnMCIsInQiOiI0TGU4VWpCeTFxYnNzTFd5eDRtSUE3VWI0bnhyMDBZbG80cFJaRVVQWmRWSkZWZEpqYWWhISEVpR01SdFhtQ2d6TElpcnR2bzFCMWdWK1FNe mUrWkNOQT09In0%3D
- We continue to hold our bi-weekly COVID Task Force meetings with Dr. Patel and the rest of our Team, in which we review facility, state and federal statistics and regulatory guidance, policies and procedures, infection control practices and resident, family and staff safety strategies.
- We've reached out to our colleagues (i.e. Greenwich Hospital, Leading Age), to share ideas and strategies re: overcoming reluctance to getting the vaccine.
- Nadia and Chris Ann have worked tirelessly to allay staff fears, reluctance and concerns about the vaccine.

The Team has taken action on all the items listed above while continuing to do their other jobs, which include running a facility, caring for our residents, fielding family and staff issues and concerns, managing departments and bringing budgets under control during the pandemic. We are always open to recommendations and welcome new ways of accomplishing our shared goals.

I want to give a special thanks to those staff who braved the elements during the midst of recent blizzards. Some extended their work day to cover shifts when other staff were unable to make it to work. You showed true commitment and dedication to our residents who depend on our care, along with real teamwork in assisting fellow staff members. Many employees spent the night here where we provided cots/linens in the auditorium or utilized available Rehab bedrooms. We are genuinely grateful for your service, work ethic and compassion.

Therapeutic Recreation

Visit Pods - As per DPH guidelines, a Nathaniel Witherell designated person will be present inside the visit pod during each visit to ensure compliance with all infection control protocols. The designated staff person may also opt to stand directly outside the visit pod.

If you'd like to schedule a FaceTime or Zoom call with your family member, please contact the Recreation Department.

You may view the February activity calendar and newsletter here:

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

We kindly ask all families to follow these visit guidelines approved by DPH that are still in effect:

- Visits are 30 minutes
- 2 visitor limit
- All individuals must adhere to physical distancing of 6 feet
- All visitors and residents must wear a face mask for duration of visit
- Items cannot be exchanged at visits & no pets please
- Per CMS guidelines we are unable to serve food or drink during these visits

That is the news from Nathaniel Witherell for this week.

Stay healthy and be well,

John

John Mastronardi
Executive Director
Nathaniel Witherell
70 Parsonage Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

Thank you to the following Team & Family Council members who contributed to our weekly update:

*Nadia Benson, Deputy & Director of Nursing
Chris Ann Bennett, Infection Preventionist
Carissa Ronish, Therapeutic Recreation Administrator
Mary Tate, Volunteer Coordinator
Tony Correale, TNW Chaplaincy
Larry Vanterpool, Director of Facilities*