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Fairhaven Families,

We are thrilled to be in the process of vaccinating our residents and staff for COVID-19 and will complete the two-dose series for those currently living or employed here on March 12, 2021. In most persons, maximum effectiveness of the two-dose series occurs within fourteen days of receiving the second dose.

There is also good news to share regarding Walworth County's COVID-19 testing positivity rate. This continues to decline and recently dropped to less than 10%.

While all of this is welcome news, we must continue to be scrupulous in our practices to prevent virus transmission in order to protect all of our residents from COVID-19. Vaccine effectiveness is estimated to be 94-95 % but is not complete and there may be variable effectiveness between different persons. Additionally, as new strains of COVID-19 develop and circulate, current vaccine effectiveness against these variants is not clear, but is being carefully studied. Overall, the availability of a vaccine against this devastating disease is wonderful news and I strongly encourage all who can, to become vaccinated. In order to continue to protect our residents, we continue to test regularly for COVID-19 and to follow all established guidelines to mitigate virus spread in skilled nursing and connected facilities.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services provides guidelines to safely implement in-person visits to residents of long-term care facilities. Core practices required by Wisconsin DHS include screening all visitors for signs and symptoms of infection, hand hygiene, use of masks by all persons, social distancing, and frequent cleaning of surfaces used by visitors and residents. The DHS also recommends that visitors use designated entrances and exits and that movement within the facility be limited. Physical barriers can be used to further decrease virus transmission and testing visitors for COVID-19 infection is encouraged if feasible.

While not at the point to allow visitors throughout the facility, we are very excited to announce that we will be offering controlled indoor window visits. You can find more information and the policy by visiting the Fairhaven website or Facebook page. Your visits have been long awaited, will certainly bring much joy, and it will be great to see family and friends visiting their loved ones again!

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Fairhaven safe for all as we warmly welcome you back.

Sincerely,

Roberta Wedl, MD
Medical Director, Fairhaven Senior Services