



COVID-19 Update

October 30, 2020

This week, we received updated guidance from the California Department of Public Health on visiting regulations for Skilled Nursing. All visitor policies depend upon your county's risk level, as set forth by the tiers in the California Blueprint for a Safer Economy. As the COVID Task Force develops guidance for our communities on applying this guidance, we find ourselves constantly torn between two positive objectives: providing social connection and preventing the spread of infection. It's a difficult balance, and we appreciate your patience as we calibrate our response, even as county positivity rates fluctuate and regulatory requirements change.

It is likely that we will continue to be pulled between these two objectives until there is a vaccine available. To that end, each community has registered to be on a list for a national vaccine distribution, once one becomes available. We do not anticipate that a vaccine will be available until 2021 at the earliest, but want to be in the best position for our residents to receive one once it has been developed, tested, and approved for use.

Our Skilled Nursing Facilities are also registering to be part of a National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network. The AHRQ ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network aims to rapidly assist nursing homes in consistently implementing evidence-based best practices to protect residents and staff. Webster House, along with its medical director Dr. Marina Martin, will be partnering with Stanford Medical Center to provide additional training for team members. In other Skilled Nursing news, we want to congratulate all of Covia's Skilled Nursing Facilities for making U.S. News and World Report's list of High Performing nursing facilities. Congratulations!

Last Friday, the family caregiver of a resident at Shires Memorial, Covia's Affordable Community in San Jose, tested positive for COVID-19. The caregiver and resident (who also tested positive) were immediately able to self-isolate as Shires staff delivered meals and other support. We were able to discover these cases due to the testing policy put in place for caregivers at our Affordable Communities. We're grateful that this policy allowed us to prevent potential spread in the building and possibly the greater community.

Do you have your mask ready for Halloween? Of course we encourage covering your mouth and nose every time you go out, but since it is the season, why not make your mask festive? Send us a picture of your Halloween mask at C19info@covia.org, and see some of the Halloween festivities already posted on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoviaCommunities/>! We hope you have a great weekend with no tricks, just treats – and an extra hour for good measure. Don't forget to turn your clocks back!