



Posted 08-11-21

Whispering Pines Lodge has had new staff test positive for COVID-19 since the last posted update on 08-04-21.

Staff who have tested positive have been sent home. The facility will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the local health authority's guidelines for staff member's return to work.

As cases continue to rise in the community, the team at Whispering Pines has stepped up to help the surrounding community by agreeing to accept and treat COVID-19 positive residents from locations outside of our own facility. Our highly skilled team has been extensively trained in infection control procedures. Because we have the necessary equipment, training, space, and supplies, we feel it is our duty to care for one of the most vulnerable populations affected by this virus. We are very proud to offer this service.

When we accept outside COVID positive cases, we treat them in our specialized care hallway until they are recovered and no longer able to infect others. When they have been cleared by our nursing team and a local health authority, they will be sent back to their referring location.

The facility is working closely with the local health authority and all other regulatory agencies. Public updates will be posted to the facility's website each week. Facility administration will report the number of active cases to the CDC weekly.

We are still open for visitation.

We have a few guidelines for visitors so that we can provide a safe environment for all. Visitors are required to wear face masks throughout the visit. Vaccinated and non-vaccinated residents will be allowed to host visitors both indoors and outdoors. Residents who are positive may only receive essential caregiver visits.

Appointments are requested, but not required. Free COVID-19 testing is available to all visitors, but not required. All visitors must screen in by answering a series of questions about symptoms, travel, and contact on our kiosk. Visitors must use hand hygiene before and after their visit. All visitors must be at least 6ft from staff, other visitors, and other residents.

We regularly update our plan of protection and are continually implementing new policies for employees and for resident care. We continue to practice rigorous COVID-19 infection prevention. This includes: health screening for everyone who enters the facility, hand hygiene, mandatory face coverings, PPE for our staff, resident and staff testing as required, and separate areas for COVID-19 care as needed.

All staff are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, per CDC guidelines.

Staff are screened upon arrival for their shift. They answer a series of questions about contact

and travel, then a designated team member takes and records their temperature. This staff screening log is submitted to facility administration, daily.

We encourage our communities to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines. We recommend using resources such as [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and conversations with personal healthcare providers. To find a vaccine near you, visit: [Vaccines.gov/search](https://www.vaccines.gov/search) .

Please call us at 903-757-8786, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.