



NIPPENOSE

— Valley Village —

A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

7190 South State Route 44

Williamsport, PA 17702

COVID-19 Reopening Plan

Effective July 16, 2020

Revised February 8, 2021 & April 26, 2021

Facility Contact: Jasmyn Winey, Administrator

Phone Number 570-745-2400

TESTING PLAN

Per the Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Testing at Long-Term Care Facilities, issued on June 26, 2020, Nippenose Valley Village conducted baseline Universal Testing for COVID-19 on all residents and staff by August 31, 2020.

Nippenose Valley Village contracted UPMC Susquehanna's Mobile Integrated Health Team to conduct testing at the facility and their lab to process the results. Individual residents and staff's primary care physicians completed the lab slip and provided an order for UPMC Susquehanna. The facility was approved to receive assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to obtain testing supplies. UPMC Susquehanna staff conducted testing, DOH sent testing supplies to our facility.

Staff members who did have medical insurance or were unable to timely obtain an order from their doctor were directed to go to either CVS or Walmart to be tested where they are conducted free tests for health care workers. Staff members who had their COVID-19 baseline testing conducted at CVS or Walmart provided the Administrator with a copy of their results.

Staff who work at another facility that conducted baseline Universal testing after June 12, 2020, were allowed to provide a copy of the test results to the Administrator so that they do not have to be tested again, unless they want to be.

After the initial baseline testing if a resident began to show symptoms of COVID-19, the resident will either be sent to an Emergency Room via ambulance, where they will be tested, or if during normal business hours and the symptoms are not severe, their doctor will be contacted to schedule the resident at a local testing site within 24 hours. Should the test be positive, the facility will notify their licensing agency immediately, isolate the individual from the rest of the facility for quarantine, designate specific staff to treat the individual while wearing full PPE per CDC guidelines, and prepare for re-testing the entire facility through UPMC Susquehanna.

If a staff member develops symptoms, they will be restricted from the facility and their return to work will be based on guidance provided in PAHAN-501 issued on 5/1/2020 by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

For non-essential staff who have been excluded from the facility, staff who are currently out on medical leave, and volunteers, they will be required to have a COVID-19 test completed prior to reporting back to the facility for work or volunteer service, when they are allowed per Interim guidance issued on June 26, 2020.

If a resident or their designated healthcare power of attorney refused or was unable to be tested that resident was required to quarantine in their room for 14 days after the date that all the residents have been baseline tested as the facility must follow the same protocol they would for a resident who tested positive during this 14-day period.

If a staff member refused or was unable to be tested, they were instructed that they would be restricted from working until they test negative for COVID-19 or facility is fully under permission to re-open from the Pennsylvania Department of Health or they may be scheduled to work strictly with any resident who tests positive for COVID-19, if applicable, while following protocol for a positive resident.

Should the facility experience an outbreak before, during, or after the initial baseline testing, the initial plan was to contract with UPMC Susquehanna to conduct diagnostic testing.

Baseline testing was conducted by UPMC on August 3, 2020. All initial baseline tests came back negative, and the facility entered the reopening process at “Step 2,” 14 days later on August 17, 2020.

In October 2020, Nippenose Valley Village contracted with ICM Diagnostics to provide the facility with testing supplies and process results for COVID-19. The facility planned to test based on the positivity rate in the county and suggested testing strategy by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In November 2021 the facility experienced their first case of COVID-19. As this came right around the holiday season and with the fear of the virus spreading across the nation, the facility decided to start conducting testing weekly. The facility has been testing weekly since then as the positivity rate has hovered around 10%.

Once 70% or more of the facility has been fully vaccinated (fully vaccinated is considered to be two weeks after the date of the second shot for the COVID-19 vaccine) on April 23, 2020, the facility plans to cease weekly testing of staff and residents and test based on the positivity rate of the county and suggested testing strategy recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

SCREENING OF RESIDENTS

Residents are being screened daily for symptoms including fevers. Direct care staff keep a log of daily temperature checks. Any resident with symptoms will be isolated from the rest of the community. Staff will follow proper protocol with PPE and infection control for any resident with symptoms. The resident will be served meals in their room. The resident’s primary care physician will be consulted. Minor symptoms will be monitored for 24 hours to see if the symptoms cease before testing, unless

otherwise directed by a doctor. Residents with severe symptoms will be sent to a local Emergency Room and a COVID-19 screening test will be required prior to readmission to the facility.

SCREENING OF EMPLOYEES

Staff must be screened into the facility at the front office at the beginning of their shift per Nippenose Valley Village's "COVID-19 Active Screening Upon Entry for All Employees and Essential Visitor's Policy" enacted on March 22, 2020 and most recently updated on March 30, 2021 and complete the entry questionnaires prior to beginning each shift. Following the guidance on the screening forms will indicate whether an employee should be restricted from working due to COVID-19 concerns. Screening questionnaires are stored in the Administrator's office.

Any employee restricted based on their questionnaire response will be COVID-19 tested at the facility. Should the employee's test be negative, and the employee's symptoms have ceased, they shall be allowed to return to work.

SCREENING OF VISITORS

Any essential personnel, non-essential personnel, volunteers, and visitors, as allowed per the *Interim Guidance for Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities During COVID-19*, must be screened into the facility. All visitors indicated above are directed to ring the doorbell at the front entrance to be allowed entry to the office where they will have their temperature taken and answer questions related to their temperature, signs for symptoms of COVID-19, interaction with anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past 21 days and travel. Visitors may be denied entry to the facility based on their answers. A log of all visitors and their screening will be kept at the front office.

PPE

Staff are provided with masks to wear at all times in the facility. The facility has secured a cache of N95 and surgical masks as well as gowns, goggles, face shields, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. The administrator checks with suppliers on a bi-weekly basis to determine the supply-demand chain for PPE items and determines if she needs to order more. Should the facility need additional PPE supplies and they are unable to obtain them from their suppliers, they will utilize the RCAT program for assistance.

ISOLATING POSITIVE CASES

Should a resident test positive for COVID-19 they will be restricted from the rest of the facility to isolate in their room. Management will notify all residents, the resident's main contact for the facility, and staff of the positive case within 24 hours.

Nippenose Valley Village has appropriate air control to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by isolating residents in their room. Individuals caring for residents with COVID-19 will don PPE including a gown, face shield and booties, each time prior to entering the resident's room and doff it prior to exiting according to CDC guidelines and immediately conduct proper hand hygiene prior to assisting any other resident.

Resident's in rooms without a private shower will be moved to an isolation room with a private shower for at least a period of 14 days to reduce the spread of the virus. Residents must be symptom free to return back to their normal room. The facility will test COVID positive residents after 14 days to determine if they are still testing positive for the COVID-19 virus.

If there is an outbreak, the facility will work to further mitigate risks of spreading the virus by designating one or two hallways of the building for COVID-19 positive individuals. These hallways have separate entrances to the building and doors that can be closed to shut the rest of the facility off. If we need to utilize this route, residents may need to be temporarily moved from their room. The facility will arrange for rooms to be moved and if needed, storage pods, will be procured for outside storage of belongings. Up to two residents of the same sex may co-hort in each room in both hallways at a time.

Rooms will be sanitized according to CDC sanitation guidelines prior to any moving of residents back and forth during an outbreak.

NEW ADMISSIONS

New residents admitting to the facility must be tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to admission. The facility will not admit any new residents who are currently COVID-19 positive.

New residents will be required to quarantine in their room for 14 days. Staff entering the new admission's room will don PPE including face shield, mask and gown, as part of our infection control procedures.

STAFFING

Currently, Nippenose Valley Village has been able to maintain an adequate staffing level to avoid staffing shortage. Should staff test positive, depending on the number of positive staff, the facility will decide the proper course of action from the following options:

- Offering or mandating overtime
- Switching from 8-hour shifts to 12 hours shifts to maximize employees
- Hiring temporary employees
- Contracting with a nursing agency for staffing

The course of action decided is fluid and can change at any time depending upon an outbreak and needed staffing levels.

ACTIVITIES

Nippenose Valley Village resumed limited activities per the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services guidance for personal care homes regarding an incremental reopening when they opened in “Step 2” two weeks after the initial baseline testing.

Residents participating in activities are encouraged to wash their hands prior to leaving their room to attend the event. Hand sanitizer will be made available and frequent use will be encouraged, especially prior to and after the activity.

All activities are set up so residents are socially distanced at least 6 feet apart from each other.

Activities with up to 10 participants, which can include bingo, arts and crafts, trivia games, and reminiscing. Currently activities involving singing are restricted from the facility. Activities where residents share items are also prohibited. Residents participating in activities are required to wear a mask.

“Step 3” allows all residents unexposed to COVID-19 to participate in the same activities listed above with social distancing, hand hygiene and universal masking in place.

If the community experiences an outbreak (defined as one or more residents or staff person being affected with COVID-19) activities will be restricted until the community has been free of COVID-19 for two weeks.

Depending on the positivity rate in the county, the facility may decide to suspend activities regardless of which Step they are in, to limit contact of residents and staff.

These steps are outlined below in the “Steps to Re-Open” section to provide details regarding the flow between steps.

DINING

Nippenose Valley Village is following the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services guidance for personal care homes regarding an incremental reopening. These steps are outlined below in the “Steps to Re-Open” section to provide details regarding the flow between steps.

Residents eating in the dining room will be encouraged to wash their hands prior to leaving their room. Hand sanitizer will be made available and frequent use will be encouraged, especially prior to and after the meal.

VISITATION

Starting Monday, April 26, 2021, with the facility will meet the required 70% vaccination status required to adjust our visitation policy per the *Guidance on COVID-19 for Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities* issued April 5, 2021.

Per this guidance, visits will no longer be required to be monitored by staff. Visits will still need to be scheduled via our online scheduling tool or by calling 570-745-2400. Visits may be up to one (1) hour long.

Visitors who show proof of being fully vaccinated or show proof of a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to visiting may visit with the resident in their room. Up to 2 visitors may visit in a medium to large room at a time and up to 1 visitor may visit in a small room at a time. Resident’s rooms will be outfitted with plastic chairs that are easily able to be sanitized prior to receiving visitors.

The facility is happy to test any potential visitor between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Monday or Tuesday of every week. Results take 24-48 hours to return. Please contact the administrator at 570-745-2400 to schedule testing and for more information.

For larger groups of visitors and visitors who are not vaccinated or COVID-19 tested, private rooms will be made available for your visit.

Visits may also be scheduled outside during nice weather.

All visitors must wear a mask for the duration of the visit. Visitors will be screened for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 and asked to sanitize their hands prior to each visit.

Nippenose Valley Village must maintain at least a 70% vaccination status in order to continue this visitation policy. Consideration for admission to the facility may be dependent on a potential resident's vaccination status to ensure we maintain at least a 70% vaccination status.

A new positive COVID-19 case may affect this policy and further directives will be issued if this should occur.

RESIDENT VISITS AND APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE THE FACILITY

Per the *Guidance on COVID-19 for Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities* issued April 5, 2021, once the facility meets the required 70% fully vaccinated rate on April 26, 2021, residents may be allowed to leave the community for visits other than medical appointments.

Residents must be granted permission to leave the facility for anything other than a medical appointment by either the Administrator or Director of Nursing. Permission must be requested 72 hours in advance by submitting a request form either via e-mail to jwiney@nippenosevalleyvillage.com or at the front door. Forms are available for download on our website or they may be picked up at either the front office or nurse's station. A signed form will be given to any resident being given permission.

The following will be considered when granting or denying permission for an outside visit:

- Location of visit
- County positivity rate
 - Including positivity rate in location of visit if outside of Lycoming County
- Resident's vaccination status
- Resident's ability to socially distance outside of the facility
- Infection control procedures that will be in place during the visit outside of facility
- Amount of people in attendance
- Length of visit

Residents may be required to quarantine for 14 days upon return to facility.

Unvaccinated residents who attend more than one medical visits in a 30 day period or any resident who is on a leave or absence for 24 will be required to quarantine for 14 days after returning to the facility. These residents may walk around the facility as

long as they follow social distancing and infection control guidelines and wear a mask. Residents under quarantine precautions must eat in their room unless they are considered to be at danger of choking, at which point they will be assigned a private dining room table.

HAIR SALON

Under the “Interim Guidance for Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities During Covid-19” updated on January 28, 2020, the hair salon may open up in “Step 2.” The stylist will need to be tested for COVID-19 with a negative test result prior to being able to report back to the facility.

NEW ADMISSIONS

The facility is happy to offer tours for up to two people at a time to potential new admissions and their family. All visitors must wear a face mask and adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention throughout their tour.

New admissions to the facility will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to admission. The facility is able to conduct this testing.

New residents are required to quarantine in their room for 14 days upon admission. Staff will wear PPE and follow infection control prevention procedures while caring for new residents during the 14-day quarantine. New Residents will be tested every Monday during their quarantine and 24-48 prior to the end of their 14 day quarantine to ensure that they have maintained a negative status for the virus.

New admissions may enjoy visitation with their loved ones in our neutral visitation room during their 14 day quarantine.

The facility is required to maintain a 70% resident vaccination status in order to maintain our current visitation policy. A potential new admission’s vaccination status will be a strong consideration for admission to the facility in order to maintain this percentage. Nippenose Valley Village strongly encourages potential admissions and their loved ones be vaccinated against COVID-19.