



May 28, 2021

To Lumina patients, families, and caregivers:

The CDC released new guidelines for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 on Thursday, May 13, 2021. Along with these guidelines, the CDC released guidance for healthcare personnel while at work and all patients and patient's family or caregivers while they are being cared for in a healthcare setting. The CDC refers to healthcare settings as places where healthcare is delivered and includes, but is not limited to, acute care facilities, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and private homes when health care professionals deliver services there. This includes anywhere hospice patients are being seen by hospice care providers.

Based on this guidance, we are continuing to require that patients and patient's family members or caregivers wear an appropriate face covering or mask while hospice personnel are providing care in the patient's living setting except in these limited circumstances when a mask is not required: the individual is acutely short-of-breath, unable to remove the mask themselves, or cognitively unable to use a mask properly.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Harris, MD
Medical Director



March 9, 2020

To patients, family members and caregivers,

As you have heard and seen in the media, COVID-19 (a.k.a. the novel coronavirus), which emerged earlier this year, is now in our state. It is expected that more cases will be identified in the coming weeks and months as increased testing of individuals presenting with flu-like respiratory symptoms (fever, cough and shortness of breath) occurs. The global health community learns new information about this virus daily. Trusted sources of information include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, The World Health Organization, and local county public health departments.

We want you to know that we are in touch with local public health departments and the Oregon Health Authority on a daily basis so that we are aware of and are practicing the latest recommendations to protect your health and wellbeing. Your health, safety and comfort are important to us.

While our staff are out in the community visiting seriously ill patients in private homes and long-term care communities daily, by and large our patients do not have infectious illness, and most are not in contact with large numbers of people. Our staff are trained in handwashing, use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, masks, goggles, etc.) and infection control practices. Employees who develop a fever or respiratory symptoms will be evaluated by our medical team and asked not to provide direct patient care to assure that they do not pose a risk to others.

Our staff will be asking if there are individuals in your home with fever, cough or shortness of breath who may have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or an individual who has traveled to a location where there has been an outbreak. This important question will help us to implement timely, appropriate infection protection measures.

Your comfort and safety are important to us. While it may be tempting to refuse visits from our staff to reduce potential virus exposure as you hear more in the media about additional COVID-19 (novel Corona Virus) cases, we know that seeing you regularly and frequently is essential to providing you with quality hospice and palliative care and thus hope that you will not restrict our visits. Should you have concerns in this regard do not hesitate to contact our office (541-757-9616) so that we can address any concerns or worries you may have.

Helen Kao, MD
Medical Director of Clinical Innovations

Shawn Foley, MD
Lumina Hospice Medical Director