

Messages from SMP Health - Maryhill

A Newsletter for Maryhill Families

October 2024

Dear Family and Friends,

October is the month to enjoy sweater weather, pumpkin spice, and football season. We try to create an atmosphere in the building around fall through decorations inside and outside. Even having mums around the building helps to create a homelike environment.



Exciting Events Coming Up!

- Treats and Treasures:** We're thrilled to invite all family members to join us for a fun-filled evening! We are planning a special event like a Trunk or Treat, but this will be inside. We would love for you to come and pass out candy with your loved ones to the kids that come by Maryhill. You can either help decorate your loved one's room or hand out treats. We will have "stations" in the dining room for the kids to participate in so if you are wanting to partake with your loved one you are welcome to join.
WHEN: Oct 31st, 2024 TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- Christmas Open House:** Mark your calendars and bring the whole family to enjoy seeing your loved one during our open house. We will have a special visit from Santa, live entertainment, and some delicious food/treats. And after our open house, don't miss **Frost Fest** happening in the community with local businesses that evening!
WHEN: DEC 12th, 2024 TIME: 4pm to 6pm

State Survey – Department of Health:

We are pleased to share some fantastic news regarding our recent health and safety inspections. From September 9th through September 12th, we conducted our annual health survey with the North Dakota Department of Health Services. We are proud to report that the surveyors were highly complimentary of our staff and the care provided. While we received one deficiency, this was not directly related to care, but we were compliant with regulations right away during the survey. We are moving forward with a new vendor Steins to ensure continued excellence in our services. Additionally, our Life Safety survey, conducted on September 16th, resulted in zero deficiencies. This outstanding outcome reflects our commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards and providing a secure environment for everyone.

Fall Vaccination Update – Vaccination Day October 17th!

If we haven't already gathered consent for the vaccinations listed below, please know that we will be reaching out. The designated vaccination day is October 17th. Additionally, please note that Maryhill staff also receive vaccinations for which they qualify, as part of our commitment to protecting the residents in their care.

- 24/25 Influenza**– The dose covers 3 strains of seasonal flu bugs to help reduce side effects. Influenza/Pneumonia is the 7th leading cause of death in the US for individuals aged 65 years and older according to the Centers for Disease Control.
- COVID** - CDC has approved an updated vaccine formula targeting JN.1 / KP.2 Omicron Subvariants. It is recommended to help reduce severe disease and hospitalization.
- RSV** (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is **NOT** an annual vaccine. If you didn't get it last year (2023) it is recommended for individuals 60-74 years are eligible to receive the RSV vaccine and individuals 75 years and older should accounting to CDC. RSV is another respiratory infection that is highly contagious that can result in life-threatening pneumonia and bronchitis.

Call-Light Update at Maryhill:

The West Wing is officially completed, and now the team is moving to the South/Middle hallways/rooms for electrical work and installation. This new system is designed to be user-friendly and efficient, ensuring that help is always just a button press away. We are committed to minimizing any disruptions during this transition and appreciate your patience and support as we enhance our facilities.

Safety/Infection Control:

In each resident room, three hand sanitizer (white) dispensers are strategically placed for easy access: outside the door in the hallway, inside the room near the bathroom door, and inside the bathroom. Hand soap dispensers are black near all sinks. This arrangement supports our commitment to maintaining high hand hygiene standards. Maryhill remains COVID-free, and while masking is optional, we encourage wearing a mask if you exhibit symptoms of respiratory illness, such as a runny nose, coughing, or sneezing. Masks will continue to be available at all entrances.

Guidelines to maintain a secure environment. Here are a couple of key reminders:

- **Do not let anyone out the front door** unless it is confirmed to be safe. The goal is to facilitate easy exit for visitors while keeping residents safe.
- If someone wants to follow you out or requests the door to be opened, **seek a staff member** to verify safety before proceeding. **Always ask** if there's any uncertainty about safety procedures.
- Continue to **Screen In** and obtain a visitor badge upon entry. **Always wear the visitor badge** inside the building.

Your cooperation is essential in helping to keep the facility secure. Safety is our top priority.



In Our Memory

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of this special person who became part of our Maryhill family and has passed away in the past month. We treasure our memories with them and pray that God will be with their loved one at this time of loss. We will remember....

Walter Munkeby, 1933 – 2024

Stay healthy and God bless,
Bailyn Hildestad, CEO/Administrator

