



Statements to Interested Parties from The Laurels of Summit Ridge September 15, 2021

Regarding Our Facility's Current COVID-19 Status

As of September 15, 2021, The Laurels of Summit Ridge has one active case of COVID-19 at the facility, an employee who has not been at work since September 1. **No residents have tested positive since August 2, 2021.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) definition of an outbreak, a facility is still considered in outbreak status "28 days after the latest date of onset in a symptomatic person or the first date of specimen collection from the most recent asymptomatic person." Since the onset of the outbreak on July 21, 2021, 29 individuals at the facility have tested positive for COVID-19 – 18 residents and 11 employees.

The safety and well-being of our residents, employees, visitors, and surrounding community is our top priority, and we continue to do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus. The Laurels of Summit Ridge has been implementing and acting on guidance from external agencies such as the CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services since February 2020. Our leadership has maintained close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are following recommended preventative steps, and we modify our actions based on the guidance we are given.

While positive COVID-19 cases in skilled nursing facilities like The Laurels are unfortunately anticipated due to the spread of the Delta variant across the country, it is a difficult situation for everyone involved and we empathize with our residents, employees, families, and community during this unprecedented time.

We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation, understanding, and support.

Regarding the Federal COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Workers in Healthcare Settings

Expanding COVID-19 vaccination requirements to all Medicare- and Medicaid-certified health care settings (previously, this had only been announced for the long-term care industry) will ensure greater protection for nursing home residents, who interact with a variety of health care specialists outside of the long-term care profession on a regular basis. We are also hopeful it will alleviate some of the staffing challenges so many in our industry face.

Once the federal government finalizes regulations and guidelines on the announced vaccine mandate, The Laurels of Summit Ridge will work with the staff at our facility to establish a supportive and efficient approach to ensure compliance. Until that time, we continue to encourage and recommend that our employees get vaccinated, and we will provide regular education and vaccine maintenance clinics in support of these efforts.

Please Note

- 94% of current residents at The Laurels of Summit Ridge are fully vaccinated. 69% of current employees are fully vaccinated. Our facility provides regular vaccine education to both residents and employees. Both our resident and employee vaccination rates exceed the current industry average.
- In accordance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reporting requirements, our facility strives for transparency in communications with all interested stakeholders. It is in this effort we created a COVID-19 resources page (www.laurelsofsummitridge.com/covid-19-resources) in May 2020 for residents, families/responsible parties, and employees to look to for updated COVID-19 surveillance data, visitation updates, vaccine information, news, and resources pertaining to COVID-19.
 - The Facility COVID-19 Surveillance Data collapsible on the COVID-19 Resources page includes both confirmed current COVID-19 infections, and a cumulative number of infections and recoveries dating back to May 2020, in compliance with CMS requirements.
- The Laurels of Summit Ridge has no further comment on its COVID-19 status or the federal vaccine mandate.