



**Statements to Interested Parties
from The Laurels of Summit Ridge
August 25, 2021**

Regarding Our Facility's Current COVID-19 Status

As of August 25, 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 August 16. **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, 28 individuals at the facility have tested positive for COVID-19 – 18 residents and 10 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 Nursing Home Workers

We are proud of the hard-working associates who staff the skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities managed by Laurel Health Care Company, including The Laurels of Summit Ridge. These associates have risen to the occasion time and again during the COVID-19 crisis, and the development of COVID-19 vaccines has been a welcomed opportunity to overcome this worldwide pandemic.

Laurel Health Care Company firmly believes individuals working with, and caring for, a vulnerable population like the elderly should be vaccinated to combat COVID-19, and although we support the

federal government's decision to improve staff vaccination rates in skilled nursing facilities, we share the concerns of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and will support their efforts to convince the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other government officials that vaccine mandates should apply to health care personnel in all health care settings, not only skilled nursing and long-term care. Vaccine mandates throughout the health care spectrum are vital for the well-being of our residents, who often transfer to and from other settings, including hospitals, hospice, and assisted living.

Once CMS finalizes regulations and guidelines, we will work with the staff at our facilities to establish a supportive and efficient approach to ensure compliance with the new mandate.

Our appreciation for our dedicated Laurel associates is endless, and we are grateful to the families of residents who have entrusted their loved ones to our care.

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 for nursing home workers at this time.