The Sun Shines on... Our Pulmonary Team

This month we shine a light on Sunshine’s Pulmonary Team, which includes Medicine, Nursing and Respiratory in partnership with contracted pulmonologist, Dr. Diana Lowenthal. Dr. Lowenthal is affiliated with the Westchester Medical Pediatric Pulmonary/Allergy-Immunology and Sleep Medicine Department. She has been a respected Pediatric Pulmonologist for over 20 years. The Pulmonary Team conducts rounds twice per month to assess and treat our children who have acute respiratory issues, as well as to provide general oversight. The team also conducts joint rounds with ENT and the Infection Prevention Team for more complex cases. The team monitors the children’s pulmonary status and strives to optimize their respiratory health. During Pulmonary Rounds, the team reviews and discusses each child’s breathing status, evaluates symptoms, checks ventilator settings and their effectiveness, makes diagnoses and gives suggestions to improve care. While the pulmonary team works collectively to provide our children with excellent care, Dr. Savitt describes Dr. Lowenthal as the “team leader” for Sunshine’s respiratory care and expresses the importance of Sunshine’s connection with Dr. Lowenthal. “She acts as an important bridge for when our children are admitted to WMC with pulmonary issues,” he said. “She is an excellent resource versed in caring for children with special needs.” Sunshine is lucky to have Dr. Lowenthal on our team who, with her entire team, continues to provide our children with excellent care.
Some important things to know:

1. Vaccines are very safe! Currently, the United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history. Millions of children safely receive vaccines each year. The most common side effects are typically very mild, such as pain or swelling at the injection site.

2. The disease prevention benefits of getting vaccines are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.

3. Even if babies receive several vaccinations in one day, vaccines contain only a tiny fraction of the antigens they encounter every day in their environment. Vaccines do not overload the immune system.

4. Getting every recommended dose of each vaccine provides your child with the best protection possible.

5. Even though many serious vaccine preventable diseases are uncommon in the United States, some are common in other parts of the world. Even if your family does not travel internationally, you could come into contact with international travelers anywhere in your community.

6. Young children have the highest risk of having a serious case of a disease that could cause hospitalization or death. Delaying or spreading out vaccine doses leaves your child unprotected during the time when they need vaccine protection the most.

Help protect your children with vaccinations.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Our construction team has been busy at work laying the foundation for the children’s new home. The team has also been “readying” the building for eventual attachment at the Garden Cafe area. As a result, the back patio has been removed temporarily. We anticipate that once the pipe work is completed in this area, a new patio play space will be created for the kids to use. We anticipate that this will be done by early August. In the interim, we have created an outdoor play space on our front patio by the Home’s entrance that the children are happily enjoying.

Sunshine’s policy provides a safe environment for all of our children, both when they are in the facility and during authorized activities off-premises. Sunshine has adopted a strict zero tolerance policy for resident abuse that features these six key components:

1. Enforced protocols for conducting employment background checks.

2. Ongoing training/orientation of employees on issues related to abuse prohibition practices.

3. Guidelines on how and to whom to report abuse, as well as how to identify, correct and intervene.

4. Guidelines on how to investigate different types of incidents and claims of abuse.

5. Measures to protect our children from harm during investigations.

6. Reporting of our investigations where Sunshine recognizes that anyone who suspects inappropriate treatment that occurs in our facility, has a right to issue a report to the Office of Health Systems Management at the New York State Department of Health. The phone number for the NYS Central Registry is 1-800-342-3720.

Family-Centered Satisfaction Survey

The results are in! The data collected from the 2020 2nd Quarter Family Satisfaction Surveys show a satisfaction rate of 96.2%! These ratings continue to reflect Sunshine’s commitment to the exceptional care we provide to our children, as well as high quality customer service. Once the surveys are completed, the results are shared with families, along with this newsletter on a quarterly basis. We hope you find this information interesting and useful.

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