

August 24, 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

I am very glad to inform you all that we are still COVID-free up to this date. Thank you for all the hard work of our staff and understanding of our Residents and families in trying to keep our Home COVID-free. I would also like to inform you on the current positivity rate in our county, which is now greater than 5 percent. That being said, there are changes with strategies on testing, quarantine policy, visitation policy and use of PPE. We are now going back to weekly testing of unvaccinated staff. We continue testing symptomatic Residents. All direct care staff started to use eye protection/face shields as of 08-23-2021. We still need to maintain the core infection prevention practices such as handwashing, social distancing, source control in the light of keeping our home COVID-free due to the increase cases on the Delta Variant in the county and surrounding counties. All of our Residents have been fully vaccinated and we are currently working on our unvaccinated staff in educating them with regards to the new COVID vaccination mandate for long term care facilities. On the other hand, we continue to work with our local health department and strictly follow guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus.

We will continue to educate our Residents, family members and responsible parties of the risk of exposure in the community when going out for trips and appointments. It is of high importance that family members and Residents call or text Cindy Deluca at 224-578-2509 for any planned visitations and appointments for purpose of screening and contact tracing. Cindy will be available to schedule appointments from Monday -Thursday from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., for weekend appointments please call by 2 p.m. on Friday. Appointment are scheduled 48 hours in advance. Cindy will not be available to schedule appointments over the weekend. All visitors are to be screened when you come in the building and are to wear face masks and eye protection during visitation. We now ask to have outdoor visitation which is safer while weather permits. Otherwise indoor visitation will continue only in designated areas provided by the Home. Visitors who fail to comply with our visitation policy will not be permitted into the building and visitation will be stopped.

Our apartment Residents no longer dine with our skilled nursing Residents until further notice.

Visitors should engage only with the Resident they have arranged to visit. They are not allowed to go to others areas in the Home. Visits are limited to 45 minutes, unless special circumstances are required. Most importantly, anybody who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and exhibits any symptoms is not allowed to enter the Home.

Thank you,

Kay Owokoniran, LNHA

Administrator