

MEMORANDUM

TO: Families and Friends
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO
Daughters of Sarah Senior Community
DATE: August 13, 2020
RE: Family Visitation

As we have indicated in previous correspondence to you, the NYS Department of Health (DOH) has issued fairly stringent guidelines regarding the conditions under which nursing homes and assisted living facilities are permitted to allow in-person visits between residents and family members. We have, at times, questioned the rigid application of the DOH directives, given the nuanced circumstances that can arise with the virus; however, we abide by DOH's interpretation, as our foremost mission remains the care and safety of our residents.

You should note that we have just learned that one of our staff members at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. This individual had not been in the facility since mid-July, due to personal travel and self-quarantine practices. Beyond that, under our own policies (implemented to further minimize any risk of exposure to residents), any employee returning to work after an extended leave must procure a negative test before re-entering the building. In this case, that is the test that came back positive.

Having discussed this state of affairs at length with DOH, we regret to report that DOH is requiring that we treat this circumstance as a new, positive staff case. Accordingly, we must recommence our 28-day clock before we will be permitted to allow in-person visitation at the Nursing & Rehabilitation

Please understand that we are as disappointed and disillusioned as you are with this circumstance.

We remain pleased to report that there are no new instances of COVID-19 among the residents at the Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, or among staff or residents at The Massry Residence.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your loved one's social worker.

Thank you again for your continued confidence in Daughters of Sarah, and for your eternal patience as we continue to battle this virus together.