

MEMORANDUM

TO: Families and Friends
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO
Daughters of Sarah Senior Community
DATE: September 16, 2020

I want to take this opportunity to update you on several matters at the Senior Community.

- A. We are proud to note that there continue to be no instances of the coronavirus among the residents at either the Nursing & Rehabilitation Center or The Massry Residence. Moreover, there have been no recent positive test results among any of our staff. We want to remind you that daily we update our Coronavirus Hotline at 518-724-3203; this is the first place you can turn to learn of any changes in testing results.
- B. As you may have seen in the press, just yesterday the NYS Department of Health (“DOH”) modified its rules for outside visitation at nursing homes. Most pointedly, the number of days that a facility must wait after a positive staff test prior to allowing outdoor visitation has been reduced to 14 days. The Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is on the verge of being able to offer such visitation.

We are in the process of finalizing our Visitation Plan with DOH. I anticipate that we should have details as to precisely when visitation will start, and how you will be able to schedule a visit, later this week or early next week.

There is one aspect of the new rules that you need to know in advance. DOH is requiring that any family member wishing to visit a nursing home resident must produce proof of a negative test result before visitation can be allowed. Moreover, the test date must be no more than 7 days prior to the date of the visit.

Please be aware that there are several places you can get a test; I would recommend checking with your insurance carrier to see if insurance will pay for the test and where you can go. Alternatively, any local resident can get a free test at SUNY Albany. You need to make an appointment in advance, which you can do at 1-888-364-3065. Results from the lab can take anywhere from 2 to 5 days; so, as details become available, plan accordingly.

This testing requirement only applies to visitors at nursing homes; visitation at assisted living facilities does not require an advance test. Our visitation program at the Massry Residence will continue under the visitation plan previously provided to Massry families.

- C. In order to protect Nursing & Rehabilitation Center residents from possible infection, we have put certain quarantining protocols in place. You should know that, if a resident is transferred to a hospital and requires an inpatient stay, when they return to the Center they will initially be admitted to the green unit. In adherence with DOH guidelines, the resident will be in isolation there for 14 days. On the 10th day of isolation, a Covid-19 test will be administered. If the test is negative, on the 14th day the resident can be moved back to their original room. You can address any questions you have to your loved one’s social worker.

We truly look forward to welcoming all of our family members for outside visits this fall.