

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Daughters of Sarah Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Families and Friends  
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO  
DATE: November 6, 2020

Initially, we are glad to inform you that there have been no new outbreaks of COVID-19 during this past week among residents or staff on our campus.

On the other hand, as you have seen in the press, there is definitely an increasing volume of reported COVID cases in our area. Being focused, as we must, on the well-being of our residents, in consultation with our Medical Director, Dr. Ali Mirza, we are re-evaluating some of our policies and practices to ensure that the risk of the virus emerging on our campus is kept to a minimum. Given this increasing exposure risk, we want to share with you the following:

- Any resident who leaves the campus for an outside appointment, such as a doctor's visit or family visit, will have to quarantine for 14 days upon their return. While we will endeavor to have residents quarantine in their present rooms, as we react to circumstances related to the virus, we cannot guarantee that all quarantining residents will be able to do so in their current rooms; we are, therefore, dedicating a portion of our Green Unit for quarantining. In this framework, our medical staff is also reviewing resident needs to re-assess the clinical necessity for outside physician visits.
- As you may know, the Governor has recently altered the NY Travel Ban. Any one traveling to NY for a visit on our campus from any State other than Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania is now required to obtain a negative test from the other State 3 days before leaving for NY. Upon arrival, they must thereafter quarantine in NY for 3 additional days, then get a COVID test on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. That day #4 negative test must be produced prior to their visit. (Please note this does not change the requirement that anyone else who wants an in-person visit must provide a negative COVID test taken within 7 days of the visit.)
- We have noticed that some of our in-person visitors are bringing drinks to the visitation room. DOH regulations regarding visits are very clear that visitors are required to wear masks at all times. We must, therefore, ask you not to bring drinks with you, or to lower your mask during the visit.

We recognize that, with the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, families are anxious to gather, which desire is only compounded by their isolation from loved ones for the past 8 months. No one sympathizes with this frustration more than we do. We encourage you, however, to heed the advice of the CDC, and avoid gatherings that could exacerbate the chance of spreading the virus to your, or anyone else's, loved ones at Daughters of Sarah.

Thank you for your compassion and understanding as we continue to confront the coronavirus.