

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Residents, Families and Friends  
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO  
DATE: June 10, 2021  
RE: Campus Update

Recently, the New York State Legislature passed a new law regarding personal family caregivers for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Just last week, the Department of Health issued their regulations delineating how facilities are to administer the new law.

The regulations distinguish between a “personal caregiving visitor” and a “compassionate caregiving visitor”. A resident, or their legal representative if the resident lacks capacity, may designate two (2) family members, close friends, or legal guardians to serve as personal caregivers and/or compassionate caregivers. “Personal Caregiving” is care given to support a resident’s mental, physical or social well-being; “Compassionate Caregiving” is basically care provided in anticipation of the end of a resident’s life or in the event of a resident’s significant mental, physical, or social decline.

Please be aware that, even if we have to close all or any portion of the Daughters of Sarah campus from general visitation due to a virus outbreak, residents can still receive visits from their selected personal caregiving visitors or compassionate caregiving visitors. However, personal care visitations can be temporarily suspended due to increases in local infection rates, temporary staffing inadequacies, acute emergency situations (such as loss of power), or our medical determination that the resident will not benefit from the visit or reasonable belief that permitting the visit will pose a threat of serious physical, mental, or psychological harm to the resident.

Additionally, personal caregiving visitors must comply with all applicable infection control measures consistent with Department of Health guidelines, including: testing for any communicable diseases; having temperatures taken; being screened for signs and symptoms of any communicable diseases; wearing all appropriate personal protective equipment; and practicing social distancing (except as necessary to provide personal care). Moreover, facilities can establish policies limiting the frequency and duration of personal caregiving visits under specified circumstances.

Over the next few days, we will be contacting each resident, or their personal representative, to ascertain the names and contact information for such personal caregiving and compassionate caregiving visitors. Moreover, the selection will be reviewed with the resident/legal representative at quarterly care conferences (for the Nursing Center) or case management reviews (for The Massry).

Should you have any questions that we have not answered here, please do not hesitate to contact your loved one’s social worker.