

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daughters of Sarah Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Families and Residents
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO
DATE: July 13, 2021

We are pleased to note that, with the phenomenal success of the COVID-19 vaccines, we continue to have no cases of the virus amongst either residents or staff. We do monitor residents on a daily basis to watch for the possible emergence of symptoms, and, as you know, we screen all staff, visitors and contractors upon entering the building.

Although there has been some relaxation of the very strict COVID rules implemented over the past year by the Department of Health (DOH), as applied to healthcare facilities things are not completely canceled. While the New York State Pandemic Emergency has been rescinded, the Federal Emergency is still in effect. As a result, DOH has elected to implement a number of the guidelines prepared by the CDC and other Federal Agencies.

In light of newly released visitation guidance from DOH, we will be asking visitors during the entrance screening process if they are fully vaccinated (i.e., 2 weeks have passed since their final shot). You will be delighted to learn that fully vaccinated guests and fully vaccinated residents can visit together in resident rooms without masks, and can have close contact. Moreover, they can eat together in their rooms.

Masks must still be worn by visitors in the hallways of the Center and in public assembly areas (such as the living rooms, the Bird Room, etc.). Visitors are also directed by DOH to maintain social distancing from others while in the facility, and they should proceed directly to resident rooms, limiting their travel around the Center.

We are also very excited to note that the dining rooms will be completely re-opened. Residents who are fully vaccinated will be able to eat together without wearing masks or social distancing. Activity programs will also be expanded for any number of residents. If all resident attendees are vaccinated, they can participate without wearing masks or social distancing. However, under the guidance, if any unvaccinated residents want to join the activity or dining, all residents are then required to wear masks and social distance.

Staff will continue to wear masks at all times throughout the Center.

Although we wish that DOH had elected to relax the visitation rules even more, we are ecstatic that the lives of our residents are at least returning to a semblance of their pre-COVID circumstances.

As always, should you have any other questions we have not answered, please do not hesitate to contact your loved one's social worker.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for the affection that you have shown, and continue to show on a daily basis, for our residents.