

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daughters of Sarah Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Families and Residents
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO
DATE: December 6, 2021

I trust that you all had a pleasant and rewarding Thanksgiving celebration. It was comforting for us to see the number of our residents who were able to visit with family members and friends this year, both on and off the campus.

As there appears to be an on-going regional rise in COVID cases, we want you to know that, in keeping with our Infection Control Policies, we do not admit new residents to the Center without first obtaining a negative COVID test. Individuals coming from the hospital are tested both at the hospital, then again when they arrive here.

Recently, we admitted a resident who had been exposed to COVID, but was vaccinated and tested negative in both the hospital and here. In the exercise of caution, however, given the exposure, upon admission the resident was placed in quarantine on the Green Unit for the first 10 days, pending another negative test.

Over the past weekend, the resident, who was scheduled to come off the quarantine list, did test positive for the virus. Accordingly, this individual, while asymptomatic, has remained in isolation.

We have tested the other residents and the staff on the Green Unit, and all of those tests have returned negative. We will continue to periodically test such persons, as per DOH guidance.

Please note that this circumstance will not impact family visitation on the campus. Residents can continue to receive visitors without restriction. However, we do want everyone to realize that there is a positive case in the building. The CDC and CMS indicate that it is safer not to enter facilities where there are positive COVID cases; however, it is up to you as to how you may wish to modify your behavior.

Also, we must remind you that Albany County remains a county with a high or substantial level of COVID transmission, as determined by the CDC. Accordingly, *it is required that all visitors regardless of vaccination status wear masks while in any public areas of the Nursing & Rehabilitation Center – which includes all hallways and corridors; nurses' stations; offices; Village Square; Lobby; and the Aviary (Bird Room)*. Masks should only be removed in private rooms, and only if residents wish to have close contact.

I ask you to politely comply with our staffs' requests that you so wear masks; our only goal is to help preserve the health and well-being of everyone.

Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation.