



January 20, 2022

Dear Resident, Family Member, Resident Representative:

I hope all is well with you and your family. I would like to share some important information regarding newly revised New York State Department of Health visitation guidelines for Nursing Homes and facility status updates.

As per the revised NYSDOH visitation regulations, effective January 12, 2022, all visitors are required to show proof of valid negative SARS-COV-2 test result from a community testing center within 24 hours of their visit for an antigen test or two days prior to their visit for a PCR test. Compassionate care visits (those being made for residents who are in an end of life situation) are exempt from the above testing requirements and are able to visit their loved one, while complying with all necessary infection control protocols, including proper wearing of PPE.

If a visitor is unable to obtain a community-based test, the facility will provide an antigen test kit for self-testing. We have set up a self-testing area in the lobby with simple step by step instructions on how to complete the test. The facility is NOT required nor responsible to conduct the test. We will certainly assist in explaining the self-test instructions. If the self-test result reveals a positive result, the visitor will be asked to leave the facility immediately and should proceed home for quarantine precautions. We are supportive of this regulation in that it will assist the facility in maintaining the safest environment possible for our residents, staff and visitors. Please refer to the attached link to our complete visitation policy and procedure.

Regarding the current facility status, since the end of December, 2021, we experienced a significant increase in both staff and resident COVID positive cases. We designated the 6th floor as our COVID positive unit. Any resident that is confirmed COVID positive is temporarily transferred to this unit for a 10-day quarantine/monitoring period, as per CDC and NYSDOH treatment guidelines. To date, 22 residents have completed their quarantine period and have safely returned to their original unit. Roommates of COVID positive residents are considered exposed and are temporarily transferred to the designated COVID exposed unit, 11th floor, for the same 10-day monitoring period.

To enhance communication with family members, the facility has a dedicated COVID 19 daily recorded message hotline, 718-557-1220, with daily up-to-date information regarding the facility's current COVID status. Please utilize this.

The facility has continuously held weekly COVID 19 and booster vaccine clinics. We strongly encourage that you provide consent for your loved one to receive the vaccine and/or booster. Please contact the unit nurse to provide consent or to get specific information on the COVID vaccines.

We are proud of the daily efforts of our staff to provide a safe, comfortable environment for the residents. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 718-291-8200. Thank you for your ongoing support, cooperation, and assistance throughout these challenging times. We hope for better and safer days ahead in 2022.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Teller

Administrator