



Jeanne Jugan Residence
2999 Schurz Ave
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July 10, 2021

Dear Family Members,

I'm happy to tell you that we have had no cases of COVID 19 over this past week. In addition, we have some great news that we would like to share! The latest announcement received on Friday will allow ALL VACCINATED Residents to enjoy communal dining and group activities without masks or social distancing. This is very welcome news for everyone and we look forward to implementing this directive next week.

The State Health Department, consistent with CDC and CMS, still strongly recommends and prefers that all Resident visitations be conducted outdoors even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated, since this "generally poses a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow." Screening before the visit and hand hygiene before the visit are still in place and mandated. If inclement weather prevents outdoor visits or if the resident prefers, we will continue to provide indoor visits in our auditorium.

Fortunately, there has been some loosening of the rules during visitation. **If the resident and visitor so desire**, the visitation can occur without face mask **if the visitor is fully vaccinated**. In addition, during the visit, the resident and visitor can be in close proximity and can touch if the resident so desires. However, the directive still remains that sanitizing of hands is still necessary after this occurs. As most of you have surely learned, proper hand hygiene has been identified as the number one means to prevent the spread of infection. That is why the Department of Health is not loosening up on this point. The facility is still mandated to make sure that the core principles of infection prevention are adhered to during the visitation. For the instances when the resident visitor is not fully vaccinated, well-fitting face masks must still be worn for the entire visit. The resident may still choose to have the visit in close proximity including with touch and hand hygiene must meticulously be performed before and after this occurs.

All nursing homes recently were given an additional list of directives to comply with for OSHA. For instance, we will need to install a plexiglass barrier at the reception desk to protect staff members who work in that area. Maximum filtration of air is another requirement of the newly promulgated OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard.

Although it's very slow and incremental, we are relieved to see the lifting of restrictions finally being applied to nursing homes. We will continue to keep you posted. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Sr. Gertrude Mary

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