

August 7,2020

Dear Family members,

Here we are at the end of another week and I am happy to say that we are closer to being able to have family visits. We have almost completed the very extensive New York Forward Safety Plan. Once we submit it, we must then wait for approval of the plan by the Health Department. Our plan is to submit by the middle or end of next week.

The plan must include among other things;

- attestation of compliance with all State and federal guidelines;
- The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or Residents;
- No staffing shortages;
- Access to adequate testing;
- Arrangements with a lab to process tests;
- Adherence to written screening protocols for all staff during each shift, each resident daily and all persons entering the facility;
- Nurse policies, infection control, contact tracing, communication, environmental cleaning;
- Our formal visitation plan must be posted to our website when completed with clear guidelines for visiting.

We included the “Visitors Expectations Fact Sheet” with our last letter and will continue to provide you with a copy each week. When visitations begin the State Department of Health has required us to collect the fact sheet from each family member signed as a proof that you have read and understand the requirements. Once you have read and signed it, you can mail, fax or bring them with you when it’s time for your visit. Our fax number is 347-329-1802.

**As a reminder:**

- Visits will take place outdoors;
- Each visit will be limited to thirty minutes;
- Visitation is strictly prohibited in Resident rooms;
- Visits MUST be supervised by our staff;
- ONLY TWO visitors per Resident;
- NO TOUCHING or passing food, gifts etc. to Residents;
- MASKS MUST BE WORN PROPERLY COVERING NOSE AND MOUTH by visitors for the entire visit and for the Residents who can tolerate it;
- The area MUST be cleaned and disinfected after each visit;
- Reusable face masks will be provided and laundered by the home;
- Visitors MUST maintain SOCIAL DISTANCING;
- **Anyone VIOLATING the requirements stated within our fact sheet will be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID-19 STATE DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

Our activity dept. continues to do an excellent job keeping our Residents busy and occupied. I’m sure we’ll remember these months of isolation and the demands made on everyone for a very long time. Despite the hardships we are grateful for the fact that we have had no deaths and only one case of the virus among the Residents. We will continue to make the best of the situation and count on you to help us adhere to the State’s demands as we draw closer to opening our doors to visitors. Feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns at 347-329-1800. Have a great weekend!

Sr. Gertrude Mary Isp