

June 19, 2021

Dear Family Members,

We are enjoying the cessation of weekly testing for vaccinated staff as we slowly begin to resume more group activities, while still practicing appropriate social distancing. Happily, a great majority of the staff members have been vaccinated for COVID19. The Men's Club gathered for the first time outdoors in over a year last evening and it was delightful to see the lively ongoing discussion among them as they enjoyed their pizza and beer!

Over the past two weeks, we worked to comply with updated guidelines from the Department of Health concerning "Personal and Compassionate Caregiving Visitation During a Declared Public Health Emergency." This legislation is geared to help meet the physical, emotional and psychosocial needs of the Residents during a pandemic. Roberta Damen, MSW interviewed each Resident and requested them to name two persons as personal and compassionate caregivers. For those Residents unable to make this decision, the health care proxy was contacted.

Compassionate caregivers provide personal caregiving in anticipation of the end of the Resident's life or in the instance of significant mental, physical, or social decline or crisis. Personal caregivers are able to provide actual care and support to a Resident to benefit the Resident's mental, physical, or social well-being. These individuals appointed by the Residents are obliged to follow all infection control guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health. Some of these guidelines include temperature checks and screening for communicable disease before entry, appropriate hand hygiene, proper use of personal protective equipment. Access will be denied for anyone with a temperature above 100°F. Social distancing still must be maintained during these visits, except as necessary for personal caregiving by the personal caregiving or compassionate caregiving visitor.

- If any visitor fails to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they will be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID-19 state declared public health emergency.

The facility reserves the right to determine the frequency and duration of personal and/or compassionate care visitation based on the Resident's clinical and/or personal care needs. Visits and duration will be adjusted based on individual Resident needs. If any of would like to have any more information about this, please contact Melanie or Sr Raymond Marie.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Sr Gertrude Mary, I.s.p.