

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

We write this letter to inform you of The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' ("CMS") most recent guidance regarding visitation in nursing homes, which is in effect immediately.

At all times, especially during visitations, our facility will continue to practice and enforce the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention ("Core Principles"), which include but are not limited to screening all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID and ensuring that visitors (1) practice hand hygiene; (2) use face coverings or masks that cover the mouth and nose; (3) practice social distancing of at least six feet apart during the visit; and (4) can view instructional signage throughout the facility and receive education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions and other applicable facility practices. Also, our facility staff will clean and disinfect high frequency touched surfaces and designated visitation areas after each visit and they will use appropriate PPE at all times.

### **OUTDOOR VISITATION**

Outdoor visitation is preferred when the resident and/or visitor are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We will provide you and our residents the opportunity for routine outdoor visitation that adheres to the above-referenced Core Principles in a designated, accessible and safe outdoor space that allows for privacy between you and the resident. A resident's compromised health status or inclement weather may hinder outdoor visits. We will provide you with as much notice as possible in the event we cannot accommodate outdoor visits.

### **INDOOR VISITATION**

Indoor visitation is now allowed at all times and for all residents. We will no longer be limiting the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors or requiring advance scheduling of visits. All visits, however, must adhere to the Core Principles addressed above and cannot increase the risk of transmission to other residents.

As such, we will continue to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained and we will avoid large gatherings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. We will limit visitor movement throughout the facility and request that visitors go directly to the visitation area or the residents' room. If a resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.

It is the safest practice to wear face coverings or masks at all times, and visitors must wear them when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status. If our county COVID-19 community level of transmission level is substantial to high, all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccinations status, should wear face coverings or masks and physically distance at all times. If we have low to moderate community transmission levels, it is still the safest practice to wear a face covering or mask, particularly if either the resident or visitor is unvaccinated or at risk for severe disease.

If the resident and all his/her visitors are fully vaccinated and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and can have physical contact.

## **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

As always, our residents look forward to visits from their friends and families. Please remember that our number one goal is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our facility to keep our residents and staff safe. As such, we will continue to follow the Core Principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and visitors will continue to be screened prior to entry. Any visitor that shows signs or symptoms of COVID will not be permitted in the facility.

We will provide you with our facility's specific visitation procedures prior to your visit. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the facility at 803-285-7907 and ask for *Jeff Skinner*.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Skinner".

*Jeff Skinner*