



The Area's Premier Family Owned & Operated Senior Living Community

December 18, 2020

Dear Sunnyside Residents, Family Members and Resident Representatives,

Similar to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, we are once again urging you to allow your loved one to remain at Sunnyside Manor during the Christmas holiday. The New Jersey Department of Health strongly recommends against families taking residents out of facilities for holiday celebration events or gatherings. The CDC states that people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should not attend in-person holiday gatherings. The obvious concern is that the age of our resident population automatically puts them in a high-risk group. In addition, many have multiple comorbidities such as heart disease, obesity, diabetes and pulmonary conditions that even greatens their risk of succumbing to this virus.

The Department of Health guidance requires that residents who leave their facilities for family celebrations must quarantine upon their return for 14 days. In addition to the social isolation that a resident experiences while under quarantine, this also requires dedicated staff, use of PPE, and all hazards infection control protocol. This puts a tremendous stress on Sunnyside's residents, staff and resources. While our staffing is adequate to meet the current demands of the pandemic, the additional staffing requirements to quarantine residents that have chosen to leave Sunnyside for a family gathering must be taken into consideration as per the April 13, 2020 Emergency Conditional Curtailment of Admission Orders.

Additionally, if a resident leaves Sunnyside for a family visit, he or she must have the mental capacity to quarantine alone in their room for 14 days. Lastly, residents under quarantine may not cohort with other residents. If a resident shares a room at Sunnyside, he or she may not return to their shared room but rather must quarantine in a separate observation room. Depending on the circumstances of room availability and staffing resources, a resident may potentially be delayed from returning to Sunnyside until an observation room is available.

Limitations on staff resources, PPE supplies and available space to cohort requires that we restrict the number of residents who will be allowed to leave for family gatherings. Prior to taking a resident out of Sunnyside, the family members must contact Sunnyside Administration to determine whether this will be permitted based on factors such as available space (if the resident shares a room), available resources (such as staffing and PPE) and the resident's mental capacity. Any plans for a resident to be taken out of the building for a family visit requires a 36-hour notice.

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Finally, in accordance with the Department of Health guidance, the residents and family/friend will be required to sign a certification that:

1. They are aware of the possible dangers of exposure to COVID-19 for both the resident(s) and family/friend;
2. They will follow masking, social distancing and hand hygiene practices pursuant to CDC and DOH directives; and
3. They will notify the facility if anyone present at the holiday gathering tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of the resident's visit/stay outside the facility.

Although the restrictions we've outlined in this letter may seem onerous, please know that our strict adherence to the Executive Directive is due to our utmost concern for the safety and well being of our residents. Many of our neighboring communities have sadly lost residents and staff members to this disease. Our resident population is the most vulnerable to this virus, and we will never stop doing everything in our power to keep them safe.

Our staff did fabulous job making the Thanksgiving holiday a very special celebration for all of our residents. We've been working hard planning holiday events and extra special meals to make Christmas even better. As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

The Keane Family