



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

April 16, 2021

Dear Residents, Family Members and Resident Representatives,

We are writing to inform you that a fully vaccinated Essential Caregiver and a hospice aid tested positive for COVID-19. The Essential Caregiver was in our Assisted Living neighborhood and the hospice aid was in our Assisted Living and Recollections neighborhoods. Unfortunately, this means that the suspension of indoor visitation for Assisted Living and Recollections has been further extended until April 28th. Visitation for Skilled Nursing remains suspended until April 23<sup>rd</sup>. These dates may vary slightly since they are dependent on the timing of test results. We will continue to work with those who have scheduled indoor visits to see if the circumstances warrant a compassionate visit, since compassionate visits have not been suspended.

We conducted a risk assessment to determine whether we can continue to cohort our residents for dining, given the positive COVID-19 test result. Based on our risk assessment of a variety of factors, such as the vaccination status of our residents, we are comfortable that we can safely continue to cohort our residents for their meals in our common dining areas.

We'd like to address some of the confusion regarding the indoor visitation restrictions that are still in place after the NJ Department of Health revised its visitation guidance. The new guidance states that Essential Caregiver visits are allowed in all phases of reopening. This has created some confusion, because the guidance also states that Essential Caregiver visits must be suspended if there is a positive test result in the facility. We understand your frustration that visitation is suspended because a fully vaccinated staff member or Essential Caregiver tests positive for COVID-19, which is especially difficult because the resident to be visited is fully vaccinated. Quite frankly, we don't agree with all of the guidance, although we are required to follow it. Our hope is that restrictions will continue to ease as more data is gathered about the effectiveness of the vaccine.

We've attached a document recently released by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman in conjunction with the NJ Department of Health. It is written in the format of Frequently-Asked Questions, and we believe it addresses many questions we hear from family members.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It means so much to us. We are all in this together.

Regards,

The Keane Family

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