



April 1, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of The Campus of The Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg,

Let me start by saying that as of today, we have had no residents confirmed with COVID-19 in either building nor do we have any staff with COVID-19.

The Campus continues to closely monitor a variety of state and federal sources of information, as well as that of our trade association and other partners, to ensure that we implement the protocols to best protect the residents that are entrusted to us as well as our valued staff.

A taskforce was formed weeks ago, made up of our Medical Director, CEO, Nursing Home Administrator, Personal Care Home Administrator, Director of Nursing and two Assistant Directors of Nursing. The taskforce has numerous scheduled video conference meetings each week and is in regular contact at night and on weekends via email and phone.

Recommendations change as new information becomes available, and we update our protocols as that new information is presented. This memo is intended to highlight some practices that have been implemented, as well as some preparations for possible future needs.

Screening. All staff entering either of our buildings are screened. We have been taking temperatures of every staff member at the beginning of their shift, as well as having them answer a series of questions to identify if there is a potential risk. We have expanded our screening questions as new information identifies new risk factors.

Masks. While some sources have indicated that masks are not necessary unless you are directly dealing with COVID positive residents, we recognize that our staff come and go from our facility. For the safety of our residents, we have implemented an expanded use of masks. We do this with a conscious focus on our supply and ability to acquire masks. We currently require staff in both buildings to wear a mask when in resident populated areas. In the SNF, this means beyond the double doors to resident wings which are currently kept closed. In the PCH, all staff are required to wear masks in all public places as residents are present on all three floors.

Social Distancing. Large scale, communal dining has ceased in both buildings and where necessary for assisting residents with feeding, group dining is done in small groups with distancing observed. Activities are conducted in small groups as well to maintain proper distancing protocols.

Staffing. I am happy to report that we have not had staffing difficulties in either building as a result of the pandemic. Our staff has responded well.

Phone Visits and Nursing Calls. Our Activities staff has been diligently connecting families and residents via video conferencing and other tools. We have received great feedback and notes of appreciation from families. In addition, we have now begun having extra nurses on duty to make calls to families to provide updates.

COVID Positive Unit. Federal and state regulations have mandated that nursing facilities be prepared to accept COVID positive transfers from hospitals. These would be individuals who had been treated in hospitals and are ready for discharge from that level of care. To prepare, we have begun preparations of an isolation unit. This unit will have a separate entrance, will be closed to other areas of the nursing facility, will have its own nursing station and supply closet, and will be staffed by a dedicated group of direct care givers. Our Director of Nursing, Chris Fuchs, has reported that numerous staff members have expressed interest in working in that unit should it be needed! That demonstrates confidence in the protocols that are proposed for that unit and trust in the protocols already being implemented.

Laundry Reminder. For those who have been picking up and dropping off laundry, we just ask that you provide 24-hour notice to facilitate bagging and transporting the laundry to the front entrance prior to your arrival.

Additional Information. We will periodically update information on our website at: www.jewishhomeharrisburg.org. On the home page, you will find a COVID-19 button. That will bring you to messages and a link to Frequently Asked Questions.

We have received many notes of thanks and support as our staff navigates this challenging time. I am grateful for those notes and am proud of the response of the staff to date as they continue to serve our residents in a very difficult time.

Allen Geckle
CEO