



April 6, 2020

Dear Family Member,

We continue to battle against the difficult challenge presented by COVID-19. At present, we have 10 active cases at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh and two confirmed cases at Jewish Home Assisted Living. We are happy to tell you that, as of this writing, six of the elders at Rockleigh who tested positive are now recovering and have been fever free for several days. We do, however, have other elders whom we are watching closely and some who have been tested but we do not have their results at this time. We continue to work closely with both our medical staff and infection control specialists to review our protocols, educate our staff and monitor the effective use of personal protective equipment, all in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus and to keep our elders and staff safe.

On the Jewish Home at Rockleigh campus we have 25 staff members who have tested positive and at River Vale there are six who have had a positive test. Some of these staff have already returned to work, recovered from the virus, and we are following up with the other staff on a daily basis.

We continue to monitor all elders three times a day checking vital signs, temperature and for any respiratory symptoms. All staff are being monitored for temperature and respiratory symptoms and staff are wearing facemasks 100% of the time. Anyone who has symptoms is being asked to wear a facemask as tolerated as well. Last week we received guidance that elders should cover their nose and mouth while staff are in the room. Medical grade masks are not necessary for this use so homemade masks will work. Many of us reached out to friends and family and have been getting masks in to use and we also have been using bandanas that were already in the building. Of course we are making certain that everything is washed before and after use. We have also received a donation of face shields, which were also homemade and are being used by staff when caring for anyone who is symptomatic.

We continue to clean and disinfect the buildings with approved and recommended products, to update policies and protocols constantly and to increase our supply of PPE (personal protective equipment). Procurement of PPE has become a consuming part of our daily routine but we are doing better than many in that area. We want to make certain that everyone has the PPE that they need and we are working hard to make sure that they are well trained and using it properly.

At the Jewish Home at Rockleigh we have added one staff person and redeployed another. Shelley Steiner, a former employee here and a Social Worker, started today. She'll be meeting with the elders who are not ill, reassuring them and also connecting with families to provide updates. We have redeployed our admissions nurse liaison, JoAnne Herzog, who will be working with physicians and families to answer clinical questions. JoAnne's number is 201-906-1946, jherzog@jewishhomefamily.org.

How can you help? If you know someone who would like to make facemasks for the elders, please ask them to do so. We can arrange for pickup or they can ship them to us. Please remind your loved ones to eat and drink and reassure them that this facemask request is for everyone's protection and just temporary. If you know anyone who is a nurse and would be willing to help, we would love to hear from them. Staffing is a challenge and more hands would definitely help.

We will continue to provide you with these updates on a regular basis as we work through this very challenging time.

Please be well and stay safe.

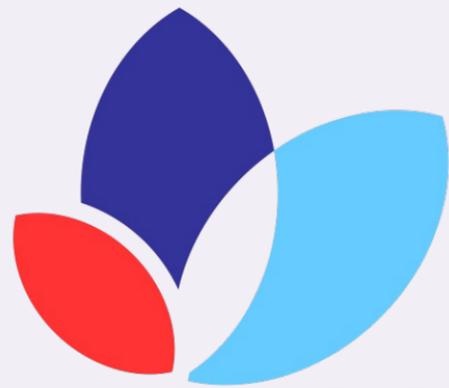
Sincerely,



Carol Silver Elliott
President and CEO
The Jewish Home Family



Dr. Harvey Gross
Medical Director
The Jewish Home Family



The Jewish
Home Family

Advancing the Art of Living.

