



April 21, 2020

Dear family member,

Thank you to so many of you who participated in our Zoom call yesterday. We hope that was helpful and will plan to do additional calls as we move forward. In addition to the update numbers, in today's letter we want to cover some of the topics that came up during yesterday's call, ensuring that everyone has the same information.

As of today, we have 26 active cases of COVID-19 at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh. We have five people whom we would classify as recovering and four who are completely recovered and being moved from the isolation wing to a regular wing. At Jewish Home Assisted Living we have 15 active cases in the building, three are recovering and four are recovered and have been released from isolation.

What do we mean by recovered? When we describe someone as recovered, it is generally 14-20 days after the onset of symptoms. It means that they are fully asymptomatic and the physician orders them released from the COVID isolation precautions.

One of the questions that was raised yesterday on the call was about testing, whether we were retesting people who tested positive, whether we were testing all elders. We are following the CDC guidelines when it comes to testing. We test elders who are showing respiratory symptoms and/or elevated temperatures. It is not recommended that we test individuals without symptoms. We are also not re-testing after a positive. That, as well, is in accordance with the guidelines. The testing is still scarce and re-testing is not, at this point in time, an appropriate use of resources. We've mentioned before that the nasal swab process is very uncomfortable and is particularly distressing to elders with any cognitive impairment. We have read, as we are sure you have, about the saliva test that was developed at Rutgers. We have inquired about the availability of that testing and hope that it will become more widely available. Right now it is not available.

The Department of Health released data yesterday on nursing homes and COVID-19 in New Jersey. The data for both the Jewish Home at Rockleigh and Jewish Home Assisted Living is not accurate. Many of our colleagues had the same experience and our state associations have asked that the data be retracted. We have been reporting daily to the State and County Health Departments on both staff and elders and it appears that the numbers may have been combined. So what looks like a total number of cases with elders also includes staff members who have tested positive. It also does not reflect anyone who is recovered or those we have admitted from the hospital with a COVID diagnosis. It is a running list from the beginning of the outbreak. Again, we have asked the Department of Health to retract and correct their information. To this point, we have not had a response from them.

One of the things we know is that we have been proactive in many ways in our approach to this pandemic. While we are not casting aspersions on anyone else, we know that not every organization has been doing the amount of testing that we have done, which may distort what is reported. We are also aware that some organizations have chosen to send any elder with symptoms to the hospital and, as a result, they are not included in that organization's listing of cases. No judgement

here, truly, just trying to paint a fuller picture for you. We discussed sending elders to the hospital with a number of our hospital partners as we began to see cases. They felt strongly and we were in complete agreement that, if at all possible, we would care for elders in our setting. We have done that and continue to do that and are grateful that a number of our elders have recovered or are recovering.

Another question that has come up a number of times is how long we are going to ask our elders to remain in the rooms or apartments. The reality is that we just don't know. We will have to wait both for guidance and to fully assess the situation in our buildings. That having been said, we know that many of our elders really want and need fresh air and sunshine. As the weather gets nicer, we will be taking well elders, with staff, onto the patios in very limited numbers. Our first priority is safety but we are not ignoring quality of life.

We appreciate all of your ongoing support as we navigate these uncharted waters. Please know that our only priority is the health and wellbeing of your loved one and please feel free to reach out to us at any time. Just a reminder that we do have clinical liaison nurses on both campuses. For elders at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, please reach out to JoAnne Herzog at 201-906-1946, jherzog@jewishhomefamily.org. For Jewish Home Assisted Living, reach out to Jackie Wells at either 201-694-1401 or jwells@jewishhomefamily.org.

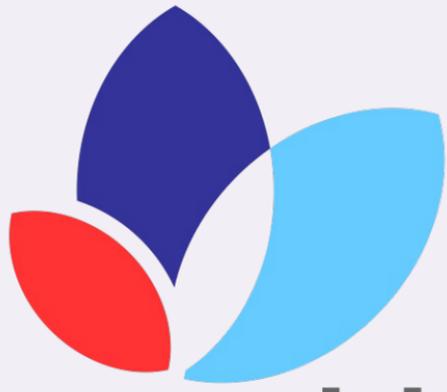
Be well,



Carol Silver Elliott
President and CEO
The Jewish Home Family



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The Jewish Home Family

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