



May 17, 2020

Dear family member,

As you know, the New Jersey Governor signed an Executive Order last week that mandated COVID testing for all residents and staff in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The order was issued on Tuesday, May 12 and we began full scale testing on Wednesday, May 13. As of this writing, we have not received all of the test results back on the elders but we do know that there are nine elders at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh who have tested positive and one at Jewish Home Assisted Living. Anyone whose results have been received has been notified, as has his or her family. If you have not received notification, it means that we are still awaiting results. Because of the volume of testing being done around the State right now, the lab processing is, understandably, a bit backlogged but we anticipate all of the results very shortly.

All of these elders are completely asymptomatic. No one is exhibiting any signs of illness but we are still taking action. The elders on the Rockleigh campus who tested positive have been moved to isolation areas where they will be closely monitored for the next 10 days. Should they exhibit symptoms, of course that length of time will be extended. The same protocol is being followed at Jewish Home Assisted Living although any elder testing positive would be in isolation in their apartment and not moved to another area.

There are many things that no one understands about this virus and the fact that people are testing positive without illness is yet another one of those items. Nonetheless, we would prefer to err on the side of caution and are, therefore, taking this preventive approach.

For those elders who tested negative, the test will be repeated within 3-7 days. Our protocol for re-testing beyond that is yet to be determined but we will communicate that with you after we finish this first round of testing.

All of our staff must also be tested. Failure to test or unwillingness to test will mean that the employee cannot work at the Jewish Home. That is an absolute. At this point, staff results are still coming in but to date none of the staff have tested positive, for which we are grateful. Should a staff member test positive they will be on self-quarantine for 10 days or longer if they begin to exhibit symptoms. Anyone who tests negative will also be re-tested within the same 3-7 day timeframe.

Our testing is being done with test kits that we receive from a private lab, the same lab we have been using since late March. They have had test kits available and their processing time has also been very good. Teams of our nursing staff are administering the tests, which are the nasopharyngeal swabs. Some of you have asked us about the saliva test that was developed at Rutgers. To date, that is not available for us to use.

We continue our vigilance with respect to infection control and the use of PPE as well as the thorough cleaning and disinfecting of both buildings. We see no changes in those practices until we have a preventative for this virus.

Once again, please take care of yourselves and stay safe and well.

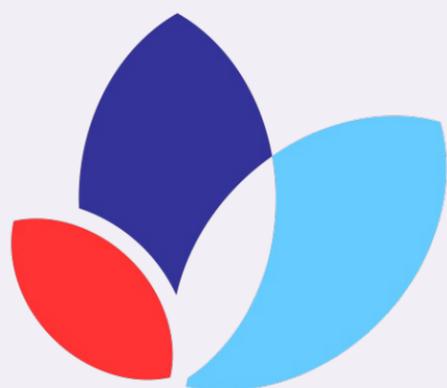
Sincerely,



**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.*

