



Advancing the Art of Living.

July 15, 2020

Dear family member,

As you know, we continue ongoing COVID testing for all of our staff across the Jewish Home Family. In the test results we received yesterday, one of the members of our medical staff tested positive. Our protocol continues to be that any positive test is followed by another test. If that second test is negative, we do a third test to confirm the results. In every recent case, all of these positives were followed by two negatives, leading us to conclude that the initial positive test was an inaccurate result. Remember, too, that weekly and biweekly testing has been underway since May so each person we are testing has had a number of previous tests that were negative.

While this physician was tested again last night and had a negative result, to follow our protocol we must now retest all of our elders on both campuses as this person was in both buildings this week. This is a precaution but something we feel must be done and that is taking place over the course of today and tomorrow. We do have sufficient testing materials on hand to allow us to complete this testing quickly. As well, any elder who was directly exposed to this person, as well as their family, have been notified of the contact.

We do not believe that this is anything to be concerned about. We will wait for the third test to confirm that the individual is negative but please rest assured that full PPE was being used by the person while in the building and in contact with our elders.

Vigilance is our watchword and that applies to testing as well as use of PPE and the ongoing cleaning and disinfecting of our buildings. It also applies to our process for new admissions, requiring a COVID test for all admissions, re-testing on arrival and using a defined monitoring protocol for the 14 days following admission. At the Jewish Home at Rockleigh that means that new admissions are in an area where they can be effectively cohorted for that period and at Jewish Home Assisted Living it means that the individual stays in their apartment for that timeframe.

Many of our elders and many of you sent letters to the Commissioner of Health asking for the reopening of the salons. We've heard that there is something "in the works" but nothing definite yet so feel free to keep up your advocacy efforts. It does matter!

We also continue with outdoor visits on both campuses and are so glad to see families reuniting. We have sent out some separate notes specifically on visiting this week, with the protocols that pertain to each campus. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to have as many elders as possible receive visits. And please remember that you must wear a facemask throughout your visit. This is a requirement of the Department of Health and it is also a vital infection control practice.

Please continue to be careful in your own life. This is not the moment to let your guard down. Stay well, practice good infection control, especially handwashing, and wear a mask in public.

We want you to be healthy, too.

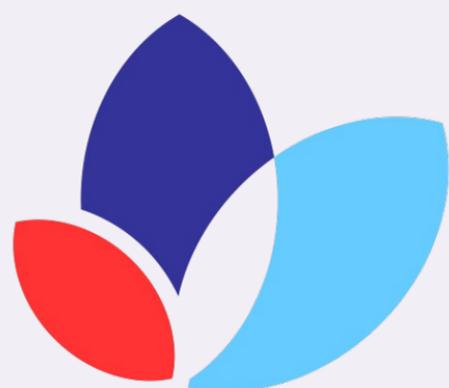
Be well,



Carol Silver Elliott
President and CEO
The Jewish Home Family



Dr. Harvey Gross
Medical Director
The Jewish Home Family



The Jewish
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