



Advancing the Art of Living.

August 28, 2020

Dear Family Member,

We are happy to report that the two staff at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh who tested positive last week have both had two follow up tests and both were negative. In this week's testing, all of our elders at both the Jewish Home at Rockleigh and Jewish Home Assisted Living tested negative, which is great. In our staff testing, we once again had one positive test at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh. A second test has been done and we are awaiting those results. As you will recall, our protocol is to retest following a positive and if that retest is negative, a second retest is performed. The staff member is on self-quarantine throughout that period and not permitted in either of our buildings. Again, we do not believe that this is any cause for concern.

As was mentioned in last week's letter, we have received guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health on "reopening," which really refers to the ability to have indoor visiting. There are many conditions that must be met to achieve the different levels spelled out in the guidelines and we are working very hard to move that forward. We are well aware that the seasons will be changing and that outdoor visits will become challenging and are working diligently on the process.

One key element that is contained in the guidelines is the provision for "essential caregivers." This is a new concept for all of us and yesterday the Department of Health took part in a webinar specifically on this topic, helping us to gain the clarification we needed to finalize our policies. An essential caregiver is, by definition, a family member or other person close to the elder, who can assist with the care of that elder. An essential caregiver must be someone whom the elder agrees to have fill this role. If the elder cannot agree for themselves, the healthcare proxy may give approval. This person must be someone who was previously actively involved with the elder and they must fill out an application and be approved by the Jewish Home team. These are not purely social visits and the role that the essential caregiver intends to play must be clearly defined on the application. In addition, each essential caregiver must initially present the results of a negative COVID test, done no more than 7 days prior to the visit. Each subsequent visit must also be accompanied by a negative test result done no more than 7 days prior. Essential caregivers must wear appropriate PPE. They may be with the elder, in their room or apartment only, for a two hour window no more than once per week. Full information is contained on the application, which can be viewed and downloaded here: <https://www.jewishhomefamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Essential-Caregiver-Application-20-8-28.docx>. Once someone is approved, we will provide additional information. While we know this process is a bit cumbersome, it is both specifically defined in the regulations and designed to keep our elders safe and well.

We will have a family Zoom call next week on Thursday, September 3 at 10 am. Here is the link for you to use: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81382120677> and we look forward to having you join our team for updates and a chance to ask questions.

All new admissions or re-admissions continue to be quarantined for 14 days and should we have an elder who is under investigation, they are either in their apartment at Jewish Home Assisted Living with isolation precautions or in a cohort area at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh for 14 days. We continue our ongoing staff training on infection control and also monitor the ongoing, appropriate use of PPE and, of course, continue with thorough cleaning and sanitizing.

We hope that you are also staying well and practicing all the elements we know are key—good infection control, especially handwashing; wearing facemasks in public; practicing social distancing.

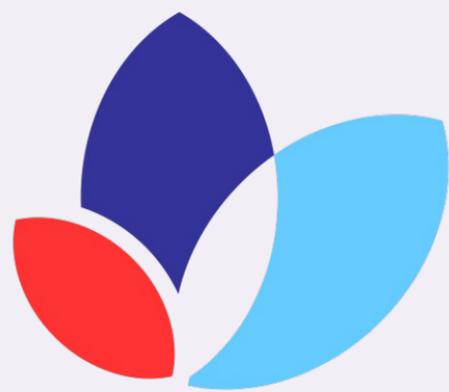
Be well,



Carol Silver Elliott
President and CEO
The Jewish Home Family



Dr. Harvey Gross
Medical Director
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