



*Advancing the Art of Living.*

September 3, 2020

Dear Family Member,

We are happy to report that the staff member of the Jewish Home at Rockleigh who tested positive last week has since had two negative COVID tests. Unfortunately, another staff member tested positive in the current round of testing and is now in the retesting process. As a reminder, that includes an initial retest and if that is negative, a second retest. We do not believe that there is any cause for concern and we know you are as frustrated as we are with this process.

The elders at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh were all retested this week and, while the results are not all in yet, so far all tests are negative. We have not had a positive test result at Jewish Home Assisted Living in a number of weeks and we remain cautiously optimistic that this trend will continue.

As we work through the re-opening steps of the Governor's Executive Order, test results are one key element that allows us to move to the next phase. We are very focused on achieving these phases to allow us to open more opportunities for visiting, programming, communal dining and more. As you can see from the testing, not all of these requirements are within our control.

We wanted to make you aware that we do have a special COVID-19 area on our website, [www.jewishhomefamily.org](http://www.jewishhomefamily.org). Under that heading you will find a full copy of our outbreak response plan as well as news items and links to resources on COVID. All of our family letters are also archived there for easy access. There is also a new telephone number listed under that heading. The number [800-484-0493](tel:800-484-0493) is our "COVID Hotline" for the Jewish Home Family and is available to anyone wanting to ask a question or voice a concern. The phone goes directly to a voicemail box that is available to a number of our management team and we will respond within one business day if not much sooner.

Last week's letter contained a great deal of information about the essential caregiver role and we have also had a lot of questions about it. Essential caregivers are allowed to visit for two hours, once per week, and must have filled out an application explaining the role that they will play that will be essential to the elder. It is very clear in the regulation that this is not intended to be used for purely social visits. The essential caregiver application is also available under the COVID tab on the website and the

form indicates to whom they should be sent for either the Jewish Home at Rockleigh or Jewish Home Assisted Living.

One question that has come up repeatedly concerns the requirement for the essential caregiver to present the results of a negative COVID test performed within 7 days of the visit. That applies to each and every visit and, therefore, a weekly visit would require a weekly test. This requirement is in line with the requirement that we have for our staff to have weekly testing and is really intended to keep our elders safe. We know that this testing requirement presents some challenges and we encourage you to call various places to determine both the availability of testing and the timing of results.

The other frequent question has been about “compassionate care.” Under that heading, we can bring family members in for indoor visits if the circumstances clearly necessitate the visit. That primarily means end of life but could also apply if an elder has a major change in condition or if a subacute resident is being discharged and the family must participate in the pre-discharge teaching.

Again, these categories and criteria are not those that we set as an organization. They have been determined and defined by the Department of Health and we are required to comply.

Outdoor visits continue on both campuses as do window and virtual visits. We are making preparations for cooler weather, including acquiring some outdoor heaters but of course we are very hopeful that we will be able to move past the “outdoor visiting only” phase before the weather really becomes an issue.

As you know, each week the State of New Jersey updates the lists of states that have high levels of COVID. We update our employee policy weekly with those lists and any staff member who travels to one of those areas must be self-quarantined for 14 days on their return. The same restrictions apply to visitors and anyone coming from one of those designated states may not visit at any of our facilities until they have completed a 14 day quarantine period. This, again, is for everyone’s safety.

As always, we continue with staff education on infection control, continued emphasis on handwashing, appropriate use of PPE and cleaning and disinfecting of our buildings. We remind our staff members to be careful in their personal lives—wearing face masks, practicing thorough and frequent hand washing and maintaining social distancing. We hope that you are doing the same and that you continue to stay well.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

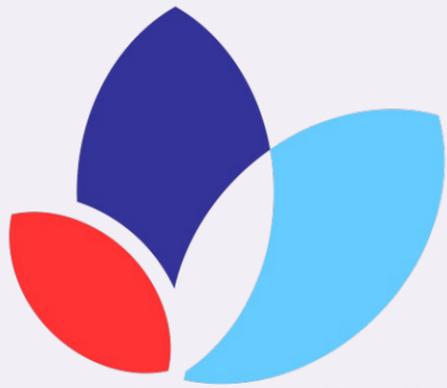
Be well,



**Carol Silver Elliott**  
President and CEO  
The Jewish Home Family



**Dr. Harvey Gross**  
Medical Director  
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# The Jewish Home Family

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