



September 18, 2020

Dear Family Members, Loved Ones, and Outside Parties,

I am writing to inform you of a recent development by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) allowing for the care of residents by Essential Caregivers within our Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Community. Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers, private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, and pursuant to the NJ DOH Executive Directive No. 20-026, Essential Caregivers may assist in the care of individual residents at these levels of care.

The Department of Health has defined an “Essential Caregiver is an outside individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to assisting and encouraging with activities of daily living and other care needs. The decision to designate an Essential Caregiver will be individualized and integrated with person-directed care planning.” Please note that the Department of Health has specifically stated that an Essential Caregiver visitation is not solely to provide social visits and does not replace the outdoor scheduled visits.

Essential Caregivers will be subject to strict infection prevention rules during their visits within the community, including both social distancing and hand hygiene requirements. Also, Essential Caregivers must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during their visits and must watch the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) video on donning and doffing PPE, prior to coming to the community. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xy00pLT9M4&feature=youtu.be>

For the safety and wellbeing of the residents and associates, our team members strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers demonstrate results of two negative COVID-19 tests before providing care to the residents: the first negative COVID-19 test should occur seven (7) days prior to the second test. The second test should occur no more than five (5) days prior to the visit to the CM community. The Essential Caregiver should thereafter continue to demonstrate negative COVID-19 tests on a weekly

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basis or two (2) negative COVID-19 tests prior to returning to provide care within the CM community.

Please see the attached “Rules for Essential Caregivers during the COVID-19 Pandemic” for more information on the Essential Caregiver program. I have also attached the “Essential Caregiver Application,” and waiver for your information and use. You are required to complete the application and describe what duties or care you will provide. You will be asked to sign the waiver form as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or concerns regarding the new Essential Caregiver program.

Sincerely,

McIntosh Thervil, MS, LNHA  
Administrator, Skilled Nursing