



October 8, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Friends:

October is off to a beautiful start; I hope you are taking even brief moments to enjoy these sunny fall weather days. As we have experienced especially during this pandemic, the only thing we are promised is change. From changing weather to changing regulations our families have been amazing during this unprecedented journey. We want to thank you for your continued understanding, support, and trust during what has been such a stressful and uncertain times for us all.

I am sure you are aware that the Pfizer Booster has been approved and recommended for individuals in Long Term Care Facilities. We have been assigned October 20, 2021, as our Pfizer Booster clinic date. Those of you who are Responsible Parties may be given the education and consent forms to sign. At the end of the month, they will be reviewing data for Moderna and J&J Boosters. Once we have information and guidance on those booster options, we will be sharing it with you. We will also be doing our annual Flu Clinic. The education packets have been sent and we have received most of our consents back so we will be scheduling that clinic date soon.

One positive change the most recent CMS mandate has offered facilities is directed contract tracing during outbreaks. Prior to this change, if one of our employees or contractors tested positive for COVID-19, even outside of Welcome, we were forced to test all residents and staff every 3-5 days for a minimum of 14 days. Even if the positive person did not work directly with residents (office staff, dietary) we were required to perform this invasive and uncomfortable test on everyone. As our county positivity numbers continue to remain high, the likelihood of someone connected with Welcome testing positive increases. The good news is we are now allowed to complete contract tracing. By interviewing the employee and investigating their work pattern in the days leading up to their positive test, we can identify and test only those who were considered high risk exposures. As of today, we remain in modified outbreak testing. The impact on visitation is not as strict on a long-term basis. Upon initially identifying a new positive case there may be a short timeframe where we limit visitation while we complete our contract tracing and identify close contact exposures. There will be signs posted at the entrances when there is restricted visitation necessary. We are dedicated to completing this process efficiently and timely to limit any impact on our visitation. We recognize the immense value your visits give to the quality of life for our residents so minimizing any disruption in this process is our priority. As

a reminder, we ask that all visitors report to the Main Street Entrance to allow our team to complete the required screening and hand hygiene process.

The Ohio Department on Aging, in conjunction with Scripps Gerontology at Miami University will be sending texts and follow up paper surveys to many of our Family Members. Every year the ODA completes either a resident or family satisfaction survey. This year it is the Family Satisfaction Survey opportunity. Those of you who are selected by ODA to participate will receive a text message. The message will link you with an online survey. Those of you who are not comfortable with online technology can wait for a paper survey to be sent via US Postal Service. Only those who do not complete the online version will receive the mailed survey option. We value your input which remains fully anonymous. Our leadership team utilizes the data provided to establish directed quality improvement goals. We thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this important quality improvement process.

As a reminder, our current COVID-19 numbers are updated in real time on our COVID-19 Updates link on our website www.welcomenursinghome.com. If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to reach out.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L