



June 5, 2020

Dear Resident and Families,

As we turned the pages of our calendars, we still find ourselves living in unimaginable times. We at Welcome Nursing Home, are blessed to continue our status as a COVID-Free facility. We take this status very seriously and we are continually updating our infection control policy and procedures to aggressively mitigate the threat of COVID-19. We appreciate the continued support and understanding of our families. We know how difficult these nearly 12 weeks of isolation from your friends and families have been. The weight of prolonged isolation is noted and we are grateful for the technology that allows us to keep you connected.

Unfortunately, none of the new Re-opening guidelines change any of the Visitation Restrictions that have been implemented. It appears there was some confusion with outside visits – at this time Welcome Nursing Home **Cannot** offer outside visits. However, we have opened our courtyards and our staff encourage residents to take advantage of these lovely days we are having. The guidance given by Dr. Acton and Governor DeWine authorized some outside visits for Assisted Living Facilities. Skilled Nursing Homes are going to be addressed in a different phase of the “Re-opening” strategy. So, as things stand today, the only Authorized in facility Visits are end of life visits coordinated with administration. We will continue to accommodate video chat visits and window visits as often as you would like them. Care conferences will still be held via telephone at this time.

There is one main goal that Governor DeWine wants to achieve before addressing any relief on the restrictions placed on nursing homes, and that is state wide facility testing. By July 31, all employees working in skilled nursing facilities across the state of Ohio will have completed facility wide testing with the assistance of the Ohio National Guard and the Local Health Departments. This testing process addresses primarily employees, although based on an assessment completed with the collaboration of the Ohio National Guard, there may be some residents tested during our assigned testing day. We have not been given our assigned date of testing. From what we understand, we will have a one to two-week notification given prior to our assigned testing date. We will make sure to keep you informed.

As part of our communication to our residents, we filmed a Hand Hygiene educational video. It will air on our internal Channel 2 daily at noon until we film an updated message. If you are interested in watching it, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/NHtlhBNPk7k>. Again, we thank you for your continued support and encouragement during these unprecedented times. If you ever have questions, we urge you to reach out.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L

Director of Quality Assurance