



8/28/21

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

The last few months have been a bit blissful in the halls at Welcome. It has been so refreshing opening our doors and welcoming in visitors, volunteers, families, and friends. Despite the frustrations and aggravations COVID-19 has afforded us, we have been blessed with several months of relief. Our efforts throughout this pandemic have been and will always remain to provide the highest level of care and services while protecting our residents. Throughout the last year and a half, we have been forced to make difficult, and sometime unpopular decisions. I promise, we have never taken our decisions lightly. With the increasing community spread of COVID-19 we made the decision to cancel our trips to the Lorain County Fair. Our staff stepped up to the plate and did their best to make Welcome feel, smell and taste like the county fair.

Unfortunately, we are very aware that as the county positivity rates soar, our facility, and our residents are at increased risk for being exposed to COVID-19. Fortunately, an extremely high percentage of our residents are vaccinated. The studies have shown that vaccinated individuals who contract the virus are at much lower risk for severe disease, hospitalization and or death. Today, we were made aware that one of our staff members tested positive through our surveillance testing process. The staff member has no symptoms but will be quarantining per the CDC guidelines. Per the CMS definitions, ONE positive test result puts us into Outbreak testing. As part of outbreak testing all residents and all staff regardless of vaccination status are tested every 3 to 5 days with no new cases identified for 14 days. We have already completed our first round of resident testing and all results were negative. We are in process of completing our staff round of testing. Until all staff are tested, we will be in Restricted Visitation Status. Please delay your visits or change them to virtual visits. As a reminder, outside visitation is always the safest. Our plan is to complete the first round of outbreak testing by Monday afternoon. Based on the results, we will update our visitation process. In the meantime, please be patient. We will be keeping the Receptionist and Supervisors abreast of our visitation status, so if you have questions, they will be able to assist you.

When open visitation resumes, please remember masks are required for all visitors regardless of vaccination status, hand hygiene must be completed upon entering the building, screening must be completed which includes answering several questions and taking your temperature. As part of our

COVID-19 Mitigation process we continue to offer all visitors COVID-19 Point of Care tests which yield results in 15 minutes.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and faith in our care. As always, our most recent COVID-19 updates, test results, details and letters are on our website at www.welcomenursinghome.com.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas

Director of Quality Assurance