



May 8, 2020

Dear Residents and Families:

We are wrapping up National Nurses Week and heading full steam ahead into National Nursing Home Week beginning on Sunday. It certainly will not be the same without our Mother's Day Tea kicking off the week, but our Activities Team has some special things in store to keep spirits high. We are having a "Spirit Week" with a fun Theme for each Day.

Monday: 5/11 – That 70's Day – Wear your Tie Dye, bell bottoms and Peace Signs!

Tuesday: 5/12 – Tiara Tuesday – Dress like the Welcome Royalty that you are!

Wednesday: 5/13 – Hawaiian Shirt Day – Welcome is the new vacation destination!

Thursday: 5/14 – NEON/Rainbow day – You light up our lives, there is always a rainbow after the storm

Friday: 5/15 – Camo/Flag Day – May Is National Military Appreciation Month, show your patriotism by supporting our troops in Camo or Red, white and Blue

The National Theme this year is Sharing Our Wisdom. We have much to learn from this great generation that we are caring for. They have excelled through many trials and tribulations and during these uncertain times, we can rely on the wisdom they have to share.

I am certain you are all aware that Governor DeWine is aggressively re-opening our state in an effort to get people back to work. We believe they are providing guidance and expectations in an effort to keep our citizens safe. As I have mentioned in previous letters, the re-opening of the state will likely cause a surge in the number of new cases of COVID-19. As the state loosens restrictions, we plan to maintain the interventions initiated here at Welcome. Staff and residents continue to be screened and monitored closely on a daily basis. All staff are wearing face coverings and Direct Care Staff are also wearing Shields. It has been a difficult adjustment for some but I think we are finally getting used to the new process. Residents who are out of their rooms are also asked to wear masks. Most are very willing and comply, some due to medical reasons are unable to tolerate them and we are certainly understanding of these issues. We continue to modify our policies and procedures to meet the most current recommendations from the CDC, CMS and ODH. It can be a challenge to keep up with the quickly changing guidance and regulatory expectations, but our team has handled this with grace.

As many businesses were forced to layoff or eliminate staff during this pandemic, we have actually been fortunate to hire qualified caring individuals. Our newest group of trained STNA's will be hitting the floor for their clinical training by the end of this week. We are also super excited to announce that three of our STNA's have completed their nursing school programs and plan to start their nursing careers her at Welcome. Welcome has always been supportive of continued self-growth and education and we could not be prouder of their personal success.

As we wind up the 8<sup>th</sup> week of our Restricted Visitation Policy, we want to remind you that we are happy to coordinate window visits or video chats. We were able to secure 7 iPads through a grant program through CMS to keep residents connected with their families and health care providers. We are using these iPads for our telehealth visits as well as for family chats. We have also loaded them with fun electronic games so those who are interested can play them independently.

As the weeks have gone on, we have recognized the need to bring the Podiatrist services back for our residents. With some additional safeguards in place, we will be able to offer room to room Podiatry visits beginning at the end of this month.

We are grateful to report that as we wind up this week, we remain COVID-Free. We have had zero residents or staff that have tested positive for COVID-19. The CDC updated their reporting requirements, but our goal would be to notify all families and residents the same day of a new finding. We will update our Webpage with any additional changes beyond the initial positive. As a reminder, our website is [www.welcomenursinghome.com](http://www.welcomenursinghome.com) and you can click on the COVID-19 link to see updated Staff and Resident numbers, all family letters, and newspaper articles. If you ever have questions or comments feel free to email me at [hfreas@welcomenursinghome.com](mailto:hfreas@welcomenursinghome.com) or call me directly at 440-213-1199.

Thank you for all of your support and understanding. Stay Well.

Sincerely,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L