

July 31, 2020

Dear Resident/Resident Representative,

Enclosed is our application for being an Essential Caregiver. As we alluded to in last week's letter, an Essential Caregiver is an individual who previously provided assistance/cares for a resident. An Essential Caregiver is not a visitor. Visitation has not yet been resumed (indoors) in housing with services/Assisted Living. This is a very important distinction. Please understand not everybody will be considered/approved as an Essential Caregiver. Visiting is currently available outdoors for residents and families on a scheduled basis.

We are excited to allow some family/friends to come in and provide essential cares to loved ones with the following criteria:

1. The attached application is completed and submitted.
2. You have returned to the community evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 14 days prior to the start of caregiving. You agree to submit to ongoing COVID screening as requested by the community.
3. The Essential Caregiver understands and agrees to the guidelines stipulated on the application.
4. The resident consents to the need for an Essential Caregiver and the increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 as increased numbers of individuals enter the community.
5. The Essential Caregiver is limited to the applicant only, this does not include other family members accompanying for the task.
6. The Essential Caregiver must pass a screening check upon entry, including temperature check, symptoms of illness, exposure risk and travel history.
7. You have provided your availability for scheduling; the community reserves the right to limit the number of Essential Caregivers in the building at any one time.
8. You agree to provide your own personal protective equipment and properly wear PPE at all times while in the building. PPE includes at a minimum eye protection that wraps around the side of the face and face mask. The face mask must cover the nose and mouth at all times.
9. You agree to visit only in the resident's room/apartment with the door closed.
10. You agree to maintain a six feet distance from all other residents and staff.
11. Hand sanitizer/handwashing is performed frequently.

Your next step is to complete and submit your application for consideration. Your application may up to five business days to approve and will include a teleconference with a staff member from our organization to review infection control protocols. During this time we will review your requested schedule for visiting and determine available times.

Attached is the education for applying and removing personal protective equipment as well as the guidance provided to long-term care facilities by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Please understand that adherence to scheduled times as well as all program elements will be essential in the success of this program. The Administrator reserves the right to deny Essential Caregiver approval in the event that program requirements are not met.

As a reminder, Essential Caregivers are not allowed during quarantine periods or during COVID-19 outbreaks in the community. The community will also update Essential Caregiver programs based on future guidance received from the Minnesota Department of Health.

The community is not responsible for the Essential Caregivers exposure to COVID – 19. This virus often presents asymptotically and the facility cannot anticipate when/if a resident, staff member, vendor or Essential Caregiver may introduce the virus into the community.

This application and results of COVID testing can be returned via email to [msmith@ga-er.org](mailto:msmith@ga-er.org), facsimile 763-270-3480 or via U.S. mail. Please do not hand deliver the application to the community.

The safety of our residents and staff remains of paramount importance. Your assistance in helping us maintain this is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mindy Smith, Administrator