



Long-term, Transitional
and Memory Care

January 4, 2021

Dear Jewish Home Family Member,

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic crisis, it has been the Jewish Home of Rochester's commitment to provide our staff, residents and family members with accurate and timely information regarding operations and provision of services. We know transparency is critical during these uncertain times.

We are now over 300 days into the battle with COVID-19, Monroe County has seen a significant uptick this fall in the rate of infections. Currently, the county positivity rate is averaging close to 10%, one of the highest in New York State. We are very disappointed after ten (10) months of fighting this virus, it has infiltrated our community and touched our residents and staff much more than we experienced in the first wave this past spring.

We thought it might be helpful to remind you of the infection control practices we utilize at the Jewish Home, along with information on how positive cases with staff and residents are handled. We continue to follow the CDC and NYS Department of Health guidelines for infection control. For example, all staff are required to wear face mask, face shield and gloves when in close contact with a resident or each other. We have enhanced cleaning/disinfecting procedures including use of specialized equipment such as our Sterimist system and ultraviolet machines which eradicate the virus on surfaces. This is in addition to the cleaning procedures we do every day--in resident rooms, common areas, dining rooms and lobby areas. Additionally, the final air filters located in our HVAC units have the MERV 13 filters, which have been shown effective in filtering out the virus.

Our newly renovated facility has all private rooms which allows us to isolate residents as needed and avoids residents having to cohort with someone else. Other measures taken include:

- Regular COVID drills with staff to prepare them if their area experiences an outbreak with residents needing isolation and full PPE
- Weekly testing of our staff
- Ongoing infection control audits and
- Screening of staff, every shift, as they enter our buildings

When there has been potential resident exposure to a COVID positive staff we conduct a thorough investigation including a review of whether staff wore PPE at all times, whether the staff member was in close contact with the resident (defined as several feet) and if contact was longer than 15 minutes. We also monitor the residents for any symptoms and put them on isolation precautions.

For any staff member COVID positive, we follow the same criteria as above, but also have a mandatory 14-day quarantine at home, with a return to work only after a negative COVID test.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michele L. Schirano in cursive.

Michele L. Schirano RN, Administrator

Handwritten signature of Michael S. King in cursive.

Michael S. King, President & CEO



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