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October 1, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, Colleagues and Friends,

**River Garden Home.**

It has been over six weeks since we've had any identified COVID-19 among our nursing home residents. At the present time we have no residents in our specially designated COVID-19 unit.

During the second week of October, all River Garden staff and contractors will be tested for COVID-19. Those results, as well as the overall Duval County positivity rate, will determine the frequency of future testing. Unfortunately, now that Florida no longer funds COVID-19 testing for nursing homes, we are unable to extend courtesy testing to private duty personnel. Private duty personnel are still required to get themselves tested at one of the many locations available in the area, and to provide test results to River Garden's Human Resources Department.

We continue admitting both long-term and short-stay applicants, while keeping a significant number of beds readily available in our specially designated COVID-19 unit. And while we hope not to need them, it's comforting to know they are there if needed.

Our family visitation program is going well. It's heartwarming for staff to see residents reunited with their loved ones. We're especially grateful to families for partnering with us in ensuring the continued safety of everyone living and working on the campus. We cannot overemphasize the role that periodic testing, surgical masks, physical distancing and hand washing play in creating a safe environment for nursing home visitation. As we enter October and cooler weather, we look forward to residents and families making expanded use of our beautiful grounds.

We're proud that over 200 family members are now successfully credentialed as family visitors to the nursing center. If you're a family member and not yet credentialed, please get in touch with us and we'll send you the materials necessary to become a credentialed River Garden Home Visitor. We ask families to allow us up to 72 hours to fully process your completed visitor application. Remember that a visitor application must be tied to a current River Garden resident and your name must be included on that resident's contact listing.

**The Coves.**

We have had no newly identified COVID-19 at The Coves since September 15. Most importantly, everyone who was previously identified with COVID-19 has either fully recovered or is now receiving post-acute care at River Garden. All are doing well!



Programming and services are up and running, with the exception of activities and the dining room which remains closed for the immediate future. While the dining room is closed, meals continue to be delivered to apartments.

Coves members may continue to leave the campus, and have visitors, but we urge everyone to keep their activities and movements to a minimum. Coves visitation remains limited to the member's apartment only; guests may not travel to any of the common areas in the facility. Coves visitors must wear a face mask throughout their time on the campus, except when eating in the member's apartment. When eating occurs, the visitor must remain at least 6 feet from the member and immediately put their mask back on upon completion of eating.

### **General Information.**

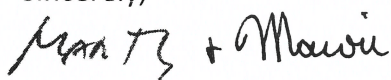
During the next couple of weeks we will be offering 2020 Influenza (flu) vaccine to all River Garden residents, Coves members and staff. Unless there is a documented medical contraindication to flu vaccine, everyone on the campus is required to be vaccinated.

Speaking of vaccination, we remain hopeful that Phase III clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccine candidates will be successful and that we will be able to offer COVID-19 vaccination sometime in late 2020 or early 2021. The FDA is carefully monitoring Phase III studies and has been unequivocal in stating that no COVID Vaccine will be prematurely approved or released. We are told that when vaccine is available, health care workers and at-risk seniors will be among the first to receive it. We will keep you informed as this progresses.

Please remember the single most important thing any of us can do right now to protect ourselves and loved ones is to wear a mask, keep a physical distance of at least 6 feet, and wash our hands. Until a vaccine is available, these three behaviors remain the primary tools available to all of us...and they work!

We have just completed our observance of the Jewish High Holidays. We were thrilled to be able to broadcast Yom Kippur services throughout the campus. Sukkot begins on Friday evening and we look forward to welcoming residents in our beautifully decorated Sukkah. Our fervent hope is that next year we can all be together for the High Holidays in the expanded Parker Family Chapel. A special thank you to Steve Meisel for conducting services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Goetz + Mauri Mizrahi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Goetz & Mauri Mizrahi