September 14, 2020

Dear Friends,

River Garden Home. Our staff has completed development of operational guidelines and protocols to implement Governor DeSantis’ revised orders allowing limited visitation in nursing homes. Last week we reached out to resident contacts and shared with them the specifics of our new visitation program and the mechanics for its implementation, and on Thursday, September 10, we welcomed into the nursing home our first visitors since March. It feels really good to have family members again visiting their loved ones inside the building.

A very special thank you to our staff who have worked hard to build a safe and thoughtful visitation program. Anyone wishing to read about how we are proceeding with nursing home visitation, can visit our website at www.rivergarden.org. With visitation in the building now available, please note that we’ve ended “Porch Visitation” on Sunday, September 13.

It has been over a month since we’ve had any identified COVID-19 among our nursing home residents. Over the last week, all River Garden staff and residents have been tested for Coronavirus and no COVID-19 was found. We are providing post-acute COVID-19 care to a limited number of patients in our specially designated COVID-19 unit, all of whom acquired the virus outside of the nursing center.

The Coves. COVID-19 has found its way into our independent living facility. There are currently two Coves members in hospital, and one at River Garden receiving treatment for COVID-19 in our specially designated COVID-19 unit. There are also seven Coves Members who are positive for COVID-19 and isolating in their apartments. Six of the seven are asymptomatic positive (showing no signs or symptoms of illness) and were identified through testing, which has been offered to all Coves Members. For the immediate future all Coves programming has been discontinued, and meals are being delivered to member apartments.

Coves members may continue to leave the campus, and they may continue to have visitors, but we urge everyone to keep their activities and movement to a minimum. Coves visitation is limited to the member’s apartment only and 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.** All River Garden Residents and Coves Members have been tested for COVID-19 based upon medical orders and/or protocol, and staff continues to be tested for COVID-19 consistent with CMS, CDC and AHCA requirements.

We will be receiving 2020 Influenza (flu) vaccine later this month and will immediately begin vaccination of nursing home residents and staff. We will also be scheduling flu vaccination for Coves Members who have not yet been vaccinated. Unless there is a documented medical contraindication to flu vaccine, everyone on the campus will be vaccinated.

Everyone is hopeful that Phase III trials of COVID-19 vaccine candidates will be successful and that we will be able to offer 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 be offered it.

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

At the end of this week we will be welcoming the Jewish New Year. Thank you to everyone who sent New Year video greetings. They will be playing throughout the week on the River Garden and Coves channels. Your virtual presence will make the High Holidays feel special and communal during a time where we must remain separate for our health and safety. We wish you all a sweet, happy, and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Martin Goetz & Mauri Mizrahi