

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY
140 Shepherd Lane
Totowa, NJ 07512

November 23, 2021

To Our Residents and Family Members:

The approaching celebration of Thanksgiving gives us all the opportunity to thank God as we look back on an unprecedented two years! The challenges this pandemic presented has made us realize all the more how vulnerable we all are and how important it is to work together with God's help for those among us.

We are grateful for the overwhelming support and understanding on the part of our Resident's families during this time. Your full support in complying with the continual directives we receive have helped keep our Residents safe and healthy.

As we all know this is not over but since we are seeing vaccination rates increase statewide it is allowing for restrictions to loosen up. CMS recently issued new guidance with regard to visitation and we are happy to share visitation is now allowed for all residents at all times.

To facilitate a safe visit, all visitors must comply with the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention at all times while in the Home.

These Core Principles are as follows:

1. Screening of all who enter our Home for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status)
2. Hand Hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
3. Face covering or mask worn throughout duration of visit (covering mouth and nose) (No cloth masks)
4. Social distancing at least six feet between persons
5. Visitors are asked to limit movement in the facility. They should go directly to the Resident's room or designated visitation area.
6. Visitors are not permitted in the dining rooms or day rooms.

Residents may leave the facility as they choose. When deciding whether to include your loved one in a holiday gathering, or visiting your loved one in their home, it is important to take into account their health and safety, as well as, other people living on their floor, and the staff that care for them. Residents will be screened upon return. Unvaccinated Residents who leave frequently, had prolonged, unmasked close contact, or if there is doubt about adherence to core principles of infection control may be placed in quarantine.

Since this is the season of giving thanks, we offer again our grateful prayers for your understanding and cooperation with all the sacrifices that have been asked of you and your loved ones especially through limitations on the times and duration of visits. We can only pray that as we continue to do what we can to prevent the spread of this disease, we do so in the faith of St. Jeanne Jugan.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Mother Mary Thomas, lsp