

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

Renewal, Refreshment, and Healthy Living



March 12, 2020

Dear Residents, Patients, and Family Members of Notre Dame Health Care,

We know that you may be concerned about the spread of the COVID-19/Coronavirus and how it may impact us here at Notre Dame Health Care (NDHC). **Ensuring residents and patients are cared for in a safe and healthy environment and manner is our greatest concern.**

At this time, we don't have any cases in our long term care, assisted living, hospice, or palliative care programs and facilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recommended a variety of steps that we are implementing to help reduce the potential for the virus to enter our facilities. We do, however, need your help in battling COVID-19, and we have some examples of how you can help protect residents, as well as prevent the spread throughout our local and residential community.

For family members and friends, we ask that you don't visit Notre Dame Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center or du Lac Assisted Living Residence if you have any symptoms of respiratory illness. Those symptoms include: **cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and/or shortness of breath.** We also ask that you refrain from visiting if you have been exposed to the illness, or travelled to an area in the past 14 days that has been afflicted. We understand that connecting with loved ones is incredibly important, and there are a variety of other ways you might consider maintaining contact with those you care about. These ways include, but are not limited to, telephone, email, text, or through Facetime, Skype or Facebook. Please let us know how we can help facilitate communication for you.

Please be aware that Notre Dame Health Care is following the recommendations of the CDC on prevention measures, including following strict handwashing procedures, and in appropriate circumstances, wearing gowns, gloves, and masks when interacting with residents who are sick. We also are monitoring and implementing CDC recommendations as they are updated. We have activated our emergency preparedness plans for infectious disease outbreaks, including re-educating our staff, residents, volunteers, and family members.

In addition, NDHC is in close contact with the local and state, and federal health departments, and we are following their guidance. We have posted signage to notify visitors of the symptoms of COVID-19, and we have implemented the CMS, DPH, and EOEA mandated screening for visitors at our Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center and Assisted Living Residence, including prohibiting those who are symptomatic from entering the facilities.

We will notify you if any residents or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19. In the meanwhile, please feel free to contact me or the Executive Directors of the assisted living residence, long term and rehabilitation center, or hospice and palliative care programs at 508.852.5800.

For additional information, please visit the CDC's coronavirus disease information page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a valuable member of our community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karen M. Laganelli'.

Karen M. Laganelli, M.H.A.
Chief Executive Officer