

May 15, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

This letter comes to you as a weekly communication relative to the COVID-19 situation.

At this time, we do not have any diagnosed cases of COVID-19 at the Samaritan Campus. Staff have continued to be very vigilant with all of our practices and protocols that we have had in place since mid-March. We have been limiting who enters our facilities, temperature screening of every staff on every shift, all staff are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks and strongly enforcing our infectious disease control procedures on campus as well as strongly encourage staff to be very careful off campus. Any new resident, or resident that returns from a hospital stay has a 14-day quarantine and enhanced PPE is used. We feel that these are the best tools we have to keeping the virus at bay. We will continue to maintain these practices and protocols.

This letter also provides you an update regarding the changes that have occurred recently in our state and how it affects our residents at Samaritan.

As you may have already been made aware, as of May 13, 2020, the Governor's Safer-at-Home Order was struck down by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. While this may impact how life is lived outside of Samaritan Campus, we will be doing our very best to remain committed to maintaining a high level of care and safety on campus.

We will still be following best practice guidelines for infection prevention as published by the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#), both of which currently state that *facilities should restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life situation*. These federal guidelines drive the decisions made for long-term care providers like us and are intended to help protect the safety and well-being of those we care for.

We realize the stress this puts on both our residents and families. There are conflicting influences in effect in many ways. These are not decisions we take lightly, and in the case of CMS regulations, these are not decisions we can legally deviate from as a Medicare/Medicaid certified facility.

Although in-person visits are still currently restricted, we continue to invite you to take advantage of the virtual visit options that we have already implemented. We can do these through Zoom, Facebook Messenger or other options. Please call or email one of our staff below to set something up.

Carrie Jeffords: carrie.jeffords@co.washington.wi.us 262-335-4533 (Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor)

Eric Moderski: eric.moderski@co.washington.wi.us 262-335-4533 (Assistant Therapeutic Rec Supervisor)

Sarah Palser: sarah.palser@co.washington.wi.us 262-335-4523 (Social Worker Supervisor)

Sarah Johnson: sarah.johnson@co.washington.wi.us 262-335-4521 (Social Worker)

The link below is the link to our Sign up Genius web site. This is where you will schedule your messenger video chats with us.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F44ACAA22A3FC1-messenger>

Our main entrance continues to have both a “Pick Up” and “Drop Off” cart. Should you want to drop off items for your family members such as books, puzzles, children’s artwork (any age!), snacks, burgers and shakes you can do so at any time. Samaritan staff will then deliver to the desired area in a timely manner.

We understand this is a difficult time for families to be apart so as a way to cope with the situation Samaritan is hosting a family parade! We have set up some “parade dates” and have worked with our staff and the local police department to make this happen. We will be doing these by floor and require that you call either Sarah Johnson (262-335-4521) or Sarah Palser (262-335-4523) in social services to let us know that you will be in this parade. Once a vehicle is registered, we will then make sure to have your family member be there for a wave and virtual hug as you drive by.

Dates and times of the parade are as follows...

RCAC Families May 20th at 5:30pm

CBRF Families May 27th at 5:30pm

2nd and 4th Floor Families at 6:00pm

3rd Floor Families at 3:30pm

You will receive a separate email with additional details.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times.

We are here to provide the very best of care to our residents - wonderful members of our wider Washington County community.

All of our residents are vulnerable to the coronavirus due to age and/or significant health conditions. We are most fortunate with all of our private rooms – but still know that there is ease of spread in a long-term care setting. COVID-19 requires our continued diligence in order to prevent any spread.

We know that we will be able to expand safe visitation at some point. We all hope that it is soon and safe. Until that time, your patience, understanding and support are greatly appreciated.

We truly are in this together.

Please call if you have questions or want to talk through this further.

Many thanks,

Mari Beth Borek

Mari Beth Borek, NHA
Campus Administrator