

November 17, 2020

Dear Sagepoint Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well and safe. As we approach the holiday season, we wanted to share a few very important items with you regarding changes from the normal holiday procedures. We believe by giving you all the information, you will be able to make an informed decision regarding your plans for the holidays with your Sagepoint loved one.

There has been an uptick in COVID-19 cases across Charles County, Maryland and across the United States. We have seen a more than 2% increase in the positivity rate in Charles County in the last week alone. The increase in the surrounding community always presents a higher risk for exposure to those in congregate living facilities. This upward trend, coupled with the start of flu season, has everyone at a heightened state of preparation. At Sagepoint, we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety and health of all of our residents and staff including the purchase of HEPA filtration for every resident room, continued heightened sanitization and cleaning procedures, and continued weekly testing of staff.

We recognize it is a long-time tradition for families to bring their loved one home for Thanksgiving dinner or holiday celebrations. This year more than ever, we want to be with the ones we love. It is also true that this year, this practice presents a particularly difficult challenge. **We are required to follow Maryland Department of Health Guidelines that state that anytime a resident leaves any nursing home or assisted living center in the State, they must be quarantined in isolation for two weeks following the outing.** For the long-term care facility, this means leaving their room to quarantine in the Observation Unit. For the assisted living facilities, it means they will be quarantined in their room. This two-week period of isolation is in effect regardless of the amount of time the resident was out of the building.

The other challenge this presents for our long-term care center is that our Observation Unit has a limited number of beds. We simply do not have unlimited capacity for observation. Limited capacity means we may not be able to accommodate all requests for leaves of absence for our residents.

Although **we are strongly discouraging it**, should you still decide that you would like to request a leave of absence for your loved one, we ask that you call to notify the Unit Director as soon as possible but at least 72 hours in advance to allow us to prepare.

Just as we are sure that you are reconsidering your plans for family gatherings for the holidays this season, we ask that you carefully consider your plans with your Sagepoint loved one this year. This is a year when the bigger picture for the safety of your loved ones may take precedence over tradition. It saddens us not to have the normal hustle and bustle of visitors, school choirs caroling, and holiday dinners at Sagepoint this year, but we will do our very best to deck the halls and celebrate with our Sagepoint family in the best way we can.

We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season, and look forward to a time soon when we all can return to "normal."