

June 21, 2022

Dear Sagepoint Residents' Families and Visitors,

The very nature of the COVID virus is that it changes over time. It continues to produce new variants and new levels of transmissibility. This has led to times of increasing numbers of positive cases in the community as well as times of relatively low numbers being reported. This waxing and waning is projected to be with us in the foreseeable future despite having vaccinations and boosters. The one which fact that has not changed since the beginning of the global epidemic is that this virus is most dangerous for the elderly and frail.

Another characteristic of this virus made clear over the last three years is that a person may NOT display symptoms, produce a negative test and still have the ability to spread the COVID virus. **In other words, you may not feel sick, test negative and may still be highly contagious.**

At Sagepoint, our highest and greatest responsibility is the safety of all residents in our care. We know you, too have this as a priority. While we recognize how very critical it is for residents to see and be with those they love, it is necessary to continue to balance needs for the safety of our residents. We are aware that there are conflicting safety rules in our surrounding community which may cause confusion. It is for these reasons we find it necessary to communicate the policies that the CDC, CMS and Maryland Department of Health have issued for Sagepoint and other long term care facilities.

Visitation Reminders:

All visitors to Residents at Sagepoint are required to:

- Have a **negative** rapid test at the entrance of the facility and may not enter the facility until the test result is complete (15 minutes). In the case of a positive result, the visitor cannot enter the building.
- Wear N95 or KN95 masks properly covering the nose and mouth, **at all times** while visiting residents, whether inside or outside.
- Limit travel within the buildings to only the area necessary for visitation.

Here are a few frequently asked questions that we hope will provide clarity for your safe visit with your loved-one at Sagepoint:

- Can residents have their mask off in the Red Room during a visit?
 - No. Residents must properly have their mask on at all times in the Red Room.
- Do residents need to wear a mask while visiting outside?
 - Residents should continue to wear a mask properly for their protection whenever possible, including outside.
- Does a resident need to wear a mask if a visitor is assisting at meal time?
 - When a visitor has scheduled with staff to assist with the resident's meal, the resident's mask may be removed during the meal and be properly placed immediately upon finishing. Visitors will keep their mask properly placed at all times during visitation with no exceptions.
- Can a visitor remove the mask while visiting outdoors?
 - No. Visitor's masks must be properly worn at all times during visitation of a resident.

- Can a visitor and a resident share a meal while outdoors?
 - No. Eating would require the removal of a mask and visitor's masks must be properly worn at all times during visitation.
- What is the maximum number of visitors allowed?
 - Currently, the number of masked visitors outdoors is limited to five and while visiting indoors, two masked visitors.
- Are there age restrictions for visiting?
 - Any child or adult who can properly wear and N95 or KN95 are welcome to visit indoors or outdoors. Outdoor visitation is always preferable.
- Are visitors required to rapid test when arriving to pick up a resident for a physician appointment or leave of absence?
 - Yes, rapid tests are required when picking up a resident for a leave of absence, no matter how brief.
- How will the policy be enforced?
 - Sagepoint's visitation policy states: *"Failure of the visitor and/or resident to comply with safety recommendations (e.g., masking and social distancing from other residents and staff) will have their visit ended immediately and be asked to leave. Residents and/or families who display a continued unwillingness to adhere to these policy actions could be subject to involuntary discharge proceedings."*

We expect visitor's desire an opportunity for a safe visit with their loved one. The staff has your loved one's best interest in mind and their enforcement of the policy is mandatory. Disrespect to the staff while enforcing these policies will not be tolerated. Staff have been asked to report to Sagepoint Administration any visitor not complying or behaving disrespectfully. Administration will proceed with policy enforcement measures up to including engagement of the Charles County Ombudsman.

The overwhelming majority of our visitors understand our need to protect our residents and we are thankful for their respect and understanding. Cooperation with the policies will help to ensure that your visit will be safe for the resident and our entire Sagepoint community.

Sincerely,

Sagepoint Senior Living Services

Stephen Spaw, NHA