



April 21, 2020

Dear Lions Gate Community Members,

The New Jersey Department of Health posted the NJ COVID-19 Long Term Care Facilities Dashboard yesterday. This dashboard details all facilities in the State, by County, that have had COVID-19 outbreaks and associated statistics. Shortly thereafter, there were articles in both the Courier Post and The Philadelphia Inquirer reiterating the statistics and Lions Gate was briefly mentioned. Since our first case at Lions Gate, we have been transparent to residents, employees and families, and we will continue to do so.

As of today, Lions Gate has had 10 deaths related to COVID-19. As you can imagine, we are all deeply saddened by these deaths and we have dreaded this moment since the earliest days of this outbreak. All of Lions Gate stands with these residents' families and loved ones in mourning their loss and honoring their memory.

Our mission at Lions Gate has never been more meaningful than it is today. We remain committed to providing quality and compassionate residential, healthcare and community-based services, enriching the lives of those we serve consistent with our Jewish heritage and values. To date, we have had 11 residents and 10 employees recover from this disease and we remain vigilant in our fight to ensure that others will recover as well. Our dedicated staff of over 200 employees continue to care not only for the 36 current COVID-19 positive residents, but also the other 21 skilled nursing facility residents, 64 assisted living residents and 165 independent living residents who all live in the Lions Gate community. This disease may have altered our approach to care, but it has not affected our employees' dedication and compassion toward our residents.

The report recently released by the State of New Jersey lists long term care facilities but does not distinguish between skilled nursing, assisted living, free standing facilities or Life Plan Communities. A Life Plan Community such as Lions Gate consists of Independent Living, Assisted Living, Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing. The Skilled Nursing Facility within Lions Gate is age restricted and residents must be at least 62 years of age. In comparison, free-standing Skilled Nursing Facilities could have patients as young as 25 years old.

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Having an older population also means that the residents have a higher frailty factor meaning they could potentially have multiple co-morbidities which, as we have read in the COVID-19 research, makes it harder to fight the virus. All ten of the residents we have lost to COVID-19 were 85+ years old, five of them were over 90 years old. The size of the facilities should also be considered as it relates to the total number of positive COVID-19 cases. As opposed to a smaller facility, Lions Gate is a 110-bed facility and occupancy runs at approximately 100 beds.

Finally, when dealing with long term care facilities, Advanced Directives must be taken into consideration. What is not reported to the State is whether a resident had an Advanced Directive or POLST (Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) that expressed their wishes regarding hospitalization, intubation, and resuscitation. These documents direct the care and life sustaining treatments provided to a resident. Some residents, according to their advance directives, choose to eliminate the interventions commonly used to treat COVID-19.

Lions Gate has been in compliance with NJDOH and CDC recommendations and took a proactive stance on implementing employee screening procedures, including taking temperatures, implementing the no-visitor policy, and requiring all staff to wear masks prior to NJDOH and CDC adopting these same measures. The statistics in the articles are not a reflection of the high quality of care and services we consistently provide to our residents. All employees have been doing an awesome job since this pandemic started.

Below are the links to the articles:

<https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/2020/04/20/coronavirus-long-term-care-facilities-burlington-camden-gloucester-atlantic-cumberland-covid-19/5166900002/>

<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-cases-deaths-south-jersey-nursing-homes-20200420.html>

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Susan

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