



November 17, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing,

We realize that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the holidays have been very different than any other year. It has been difficult for both families and residents to be apart during the holidays, and with the surge in COVID-19 positive cases in our area, unfortunately, Thanksgiving will be different too. However, Lions Gate plans to make Thanksgiving special for all residents, including a delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Today, we received a Holiday Visitation Directive from the NJ Department of Health who strongly recommends against families taking residents out of facilities for holiday celebration events or gatherings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that a significant driver of the recent case increases is small family gatherings. The CDC and the NJDOH recommend that individuals at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid in-person gatherings with individuals with whom they do not live.

If you decide to bring residents to gatherings outside of Lions Gate, you should follow the CDC guidance for celebrating the holidays: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>. Below are the requirements from the NJ DOH that need to be followed for families that take a resident out of Lions Gate for a holiday:

Family members should plan in advance of the event. Residents that leave Lions Gate for family celebrations must be quarantined upon their return in accordance with CDC Guidance as follows:

- a. Require all individuals who leave the community for holiday gatherings/visits to quarantine for 14 days upon return to Lions Gate.
- b. Assisted Living residents will quarantine in their apartment.
- c. Safe Haven residents will go to the cohort unit in skilled nursing to quarantine for 14 days.

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- d. Skilled Nursing residents will go the cohort unit to quarantine for 14 days.
- e. If a cohort unit room is not available, Lions Gate will notify the family that the resident will not be permitted to return to Lions Gate until a room is available or until Lions Gate is otherwise able to cohort returning residents in compliance with current CDC and NJDOH guidance and directives.
- f. Lions Gate estimates that there will be four (4) rooms designated for residents who will be cohorted; however, this is based on the available space. The 14-day quarantine period will be based on current census and projected census from November 25, 2020 through December 31, 2020, as well as availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and staff.
- g. Lions Gate will establish a sign-up process for residents and families to make reservations before taking a resident out of the community. Reservations should be available up to the number of people Lions Gate can accommodate for 14-day quarantine period. The number of days requested for leave will need to be confirmed by resident/family member 36 hours before the resident leaves Lions Gate.
- h. A waiting list will be created for those residents who request a reservation after the established limit has been reached. Residents that leave without a reservation or on a waiting list may not be guaranteed re-admittance to Lions Gate at the end of their visit; please plan in advance for such situations.
- i. Lions Gate requires 36 hours' notice of cancellation/change in plans before a resident is taken out of the facility for a family visit.
- j. Lions Gate requires the resident and family/friend to certify that:
- They are aware of the possible dangers of exposure to COVID-19 for both the resident and family friends;
  - They will follow masking, social distancing and hand hygiene practices pursuant to CDC and NJ DOH directives; and
  - They will notify Lions Gate if anyone present at the holiday gatherings tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of the residents' visit/stay outside of Lions Gate.

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- Lions Gate will obtain a signed certification from each family/friend and resident (if resident is unable to consent, then consent needs to be signed by the authorized representative) with a copy provided to the family/friend and resident.

***Prior to taking a resident out of Lions Gate, family members should contact Administration to make sure that a cohort unit room will be available upon the return of the resident or they can make a reservation as delineated above. Lions Gate may require that families of Safe Haven residents care for their loved ones until there is a room available to quarantine the resident. Families should work with Lions Gate administration to have a plan for quarantining the resident and for the resident's return.***

If you have any questions, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 856-679-4679 or email at [lgadministrator@lionsgateccrc.org](mailto:lgadministrator@lionsgateccrc.org).

Respectfully,

Susan Love, M.S., LNHA  
CEO

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