

DAUGHTERS OF MIRIAM CENTER THE GALLEN INSTITUTE

155 HAZEL STREET • CLIFTON, NJ 07011 • PHONE: (973) 772-3700/01/02 • FAX: (973) 253-5389
daughtersofmiriamcenter.org

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*Deceased

AN UPDATE FROM DAUGHTERS OF MIRIAM CENTER ON COVID-19

As of 11/21/20 at 1:30 PM:

Census 144

0 Residents have tested positive for COVID-19

3 Non-Facility acquired COVID-19 positive case(s)

34 Residents are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19

17 New Admissions under observation

76 Residents have successfully recovered from COVID-19

3 Center staff have tested positive for COVID-19

0 Center staff are considered Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19

48 Residents have passed away due to COVID-19 during this pandemic

0 Center staff have passed away due to COVID-19 during this pandemic

As this crisis continues to deeply affect all of New Jersey but especially long-term care facilities where nursing home residents and sub-acute patients require assistance with all activities of daily living, we are taking all recommended steps to contain the spread of this virus at Daughters of Miriam Center. Currently we have nursing home residents who have either tested positive for COVID-19 or are Persons Under Investigation for the virus, so we wanted to provide you with additional detailed information on the statistics above:

- The Center is now open for admissions. You will note a new statistic above as residents who acquire COVID-19 from a source other than Daughters of Miriam Center are noted above and are automatically considered under observation and are quarantined for 14 days.
- Out of an abundance of caution, the New Jersey Department of Health asked that we designate and quarantine one unit of 33 residents as a COVID-19 PUI unit for the next seven days (November 18 through 25th, 2020). This is a precautionary measure taken to safeguard all residents as we had a COVID-19 positive staff member who worked in this clinical area.
- Per New Jersey Department of Health guidelines all nursing home residents and staff are tested regularly.

We are committed to being as forthcoming and transparent as we can during this difficult situation. Daily Facility Status Updates are posted on the Daughters of Miriam Center website at daughtersofmiriamcenter.org and can be accessed by clicking on the top right of the main page on the link for "Covid-19 Update."

We understand you may have questions or concerns regarding your loved one so please do not hesitate to reach out to the Director of Social Services, Myrna Gomez, at 973-253-5233 or via email at mgomez@daughtersofmiriamcenter.org. Please be aware your call or email will be returned as soon as possible.

Our thoughts are with the families of those lost to this unprecedented pandemic. Our entire staff continues to work tirelessly to care for all of our nursing home residents and sub-acute patients in this difficult situation.

Frank DaSilva

CEO

Daughters of Miriam Center

Daughters of Miriam Center/The Gallen Institute is CMS 5-Star Rated

Daughters of Miriam Center/The Gallen Institute is Accredited by The Joint Commission

Daughters of Miriam Center/The Gallen Institute is a Beneficiary Agency of UJA Federation of Northern NJ



- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Rothenberg Building
- Eva & Morris Feld Tower
- Gallen Institute for Subacute Care
- B.I. Cohen Family Building
- Memory Care Pavilion
- Esther & Sam Schwartz Building
- Respite Care Program

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UPDATED VISITATION ANNOUNCEMENT As of November 23, 2020

In compliance with NJ State mandates, Daughters of Miriam Center conducts weekly employee surveillance testing which revealed staff and/or residents (refer to updated facility status update posted on our website) have tested positive for COVID-19. With this in mind, and in conjunction with State Executive Directive 20-026, the Center is now in Phase 0 which prohibits all indoor visitation until further notice.

We are acutely aware how devastating social isolation is for our residents and their families and, although we cannot permit indoor visitation at this time, we are implementing an indoor/outdoor visitation plan whereby residents will stay inside and visit with their families who will remain outside. With advance scheduling, residents will be brought to our Family Lounge to view their families through large windows. Family members will stand outside the windows in the garden for “face-to-face” visitation while speaking with the resident on their phone or tablet. While we realize this is not optimal, we know it is important for our residents and patients to see their families in person.

We realize this is very difficult for all, however, the safety and health of our residents and staff is our number one priority. We will continue to conduct weekly employee testing and will update you as soon as possible so we can resume indoor visitation. Please visit our website for our weekly facility status update for the most up-to-date information.

To see the complete visitation policy and to make your appointment please visit our website at daughtersofmiriamcenter.org and click on the “COVID-19 Update” located on the upper right side of the home page. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the Director of Social Services, Myrna Gomez via email at mgomez@daughtersofmiriamcenter.org or by phone at 973-253-5233.

Sincerely,
Frank DaSilva
CEO

Holiday Guidance and Certification during COVID-19 Pandemic
(Effective November 25 through December 31, 2020)

Guidance: Due to the risk of the rapid spread of the coronavirus, as well as the need to protect all members of the community, most especially residents of health care facilities who are at an increased risk of serious complications and death from COVID-19, Daughters of Miriam Center (DMC) agrees with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) which strongly recommends **against** families taking residents out of facilities for holiday celebrations or gatherings. Likewise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported that a significant driver for the spread of the virus 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. With this in mind and to help combat social isolation, DMC has implemented outdoor visitation and has increased virtual communication.

Please note: Families who decide to take their loved ones to gatherings to celebrate the holidays outside of the Center will not automatically be guaranteed re-admittance to DMC when they are ready to return. Families and residents should follow all CDC guidance regarding infection prevention and control measures, including social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing a cloth face covering or facemask. Additionally, residents who leave the Center for family celebrations will be quarantined for 14 days in DMC's Persons Under Investigation (PUI) unit and, in accordance with CDC guidance, will be tested as soon as possible upon their return. If a bed in the PUI unit is not available, the resident will not be permitted to return to DMC until such time as a room is available or until the Center is otherwise able to cohort returning residents. DMC may require that families care for their loved ones until there is a room available at the Center to quarantine the resident.

Families who desire to take a resident out of the Center must make a reservation through the social service department by calling 973-253-5340, complete the form below and return via email to mgomez@daughtersofmiriamcenter.org. The number of days requested for leave must be confirmed 36 hours before the resident leaves the facility. Residents who leave without a reservation or who are on a waiting list may also not be guaranteed re-admittance to the facility. Medical clearance is required for any visit outside of DMC.

Certification: I, _____ (resident or authorized representative's name), certify and understand the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. Furthermore, resident and family understand COVID-19 is extremely contagious, and, as a result, federal and state health agencies strongly recommend against families taking residents out of facilities for holiday celebrations or gatherings. Given the nature of the virus, the resident and their family member understand there is an inherent risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 by virtue of proceeding with this elective visit.

Resident and Family acknowledge the existence of the COVID-19 virus, the dangers of the virus, and the potential exposure to the virus that could occur as a result of participating in a holiday visit outside of DMC. Resident and their family member hereby acknowledge and assume the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 through this elective visit and choose to participate in same. Resident and their family member hereby acknowledge that an infection with COVID-19 could result in severe illness, up to and including death.

Resident and family member agree to follow all rules of the holiday visitation guidance and to notify the Director of Nursing, Candace Wishbow-Leto at 973-253-5745 immediately by phone and in writing if the resident or a family member tests positive for COVID-19 or develop symptoms at any time up to 14 days after visitation.

Resident and their family member agree to hold harmless, release, and indemnify DMC and its employees, agents, and representatives for any exposure to, or lawsuit, or other claim by anyone as a result of the Covid-19 virus causing injury, illness, or other damages arising from the visit.

 Resident (or Authorized Rep.)

 Family Member/Visitor Name

 Administrator/Designee Name

 Dated

 Dated

 Dated

Daughters of Miriam Center Outbreak Response Plan 9/30/2020

Policy:

- To effectively manage and contain an outbreak when identified in the Center
- To promote an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment
- To help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections
- Outbreak investigations will be organized by the Infection Control Nurse (Infection Preventionist) or designee when an outbreak is suspected
- The team listed below will meet daily to monitor the outbreak and initiate any necessary changes. Local and State Department of Health will be apprised as required.

SECTION A

Infection Control Prevention Team:

- Infection Preventionist
- Medical Director
- Administration (Administrator and Nursing Director)
- Unit Nurses
- Housekeeping Director
- Dietary Director
- Maintenance Director
- Social Services
- Admissions Director

Outbreak investigation will be organized by the Infection Control Nurse (Infection Preventionist) or designee when an outbreak is suspected.

1. The Center will inform residents and their representatives within 12 hours of a single confirmed infection of COVID-19, influenza or norovirus.
2. The Center will inform residents and their representatives of a potential outbreak when there are one or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms and /or gastrointestinal symptoms that occur within 72 hours.
3. Updates on facility status of residents and their representatives will be provided daily, or each subsequent time a confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified and/or whenever there are three (3) or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours.
4. The Center's designee will include information on mitigating actions implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing Center will be altered.
5. Immediate steps will be taken to the best of the Center's ability to isolate symptomatic individuals from those who may be pre-symptomatic or under investigation and residents who are asymptomatic to dedicated areas with dedicated staff.
6. Testing will be expansive and extensive Center-wide for COVID-19 and influenza.
7. Staff testing will also take place to stop the introduction, limit exposure to, and control the spread of these contagious diseases.

SECTION B

Procedure:

According to defined clinical parameters or state regulations:

COVID-19:

One resident/patient and/or staff in three (3) days become sick with these listed symptoms and at least one (1) of these has a positive test for COVID-19:

1. Confirm the existence of an outbreak:
 - a. Defined as one (1) Lab ID SARS-CoV-2 positive, that is an excess over expected (usual) level within the Center (i.e., normal rate is 0% and is now (1) positive Lab ID result.
 - b. Symptoms: Fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, loss of taste and smell, GI symptoms
Elders may exhibit:
 - i. Increased confusion, worsening chronic conditions of the lungs, loss of appetite, and decreased fluid intake
 - ii. Less common: sore throat, headache
2. This Center will implement Center-wide testing of residents and all Center staff.
3. If resident/patient(s) refuses to undergo COVID-19 testing, those individuals will be treated as a Person Under Investigation (PUI).
 - a. Nursing will document resident/patient's refusal and notify responsible representative of refusal to be tested.
 - b. Resident/patient will be moved to the PUI unit for 14 days.
 - c. PUI:
 - i. Resident/patient will be cohorted accordingly
 - ii. Temperature monitoring will continue every shift
 - iii. Onset of elevated temperature or other related symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will require immediate cohorting with symptomatic residents

INFLUENZA:

1. Three (3) or more clinically defined cases or one (1) or more laboratory Identified results for Influenza in a Center within a 10-day period from October through May, should be viewed as an outbreak.

PNEUMONIA:

1. Two (2) or more with nosocomial cases of non-aspiration pneumonia within a 10-day period should be reviewed for outbreak potential.

SECTION C

1. Develop a case definition based on symptoms, characterized by disease cases
 - a. What: the pathogen, site, and/or sign/symptoms
 - b. Who: the population in which cases are occurring
 - c. Where: the unit location of case(s)
 - d. When: length of time case(s) has been occurring

2. Create line listing and search for additional causes and cases
 - a. Review surveillance and lab reports
 - b. Obtain appropriate lab specimens as directed by the physician or state/local health department
3. Use appropriate line listing forms when symptoms are identified for both resident and staff:
 - a. Respiratory Line Listing, Gastroenteritis Line Listing
4. Organize data according to time, place, and person
 - a. Time: duration of the outbreak and pattern of occurrence
 - b. Place: develop location and onset of dates of cases
 - c. Person: evaluate characteristics that influence susceptibility such as age, sex, underlying disease, immunization history
 - d. Exposure by nursing staff, or other infected residents
5. Formulate likely cause
 - a. identify (organism) source and possible mode of transmission
 - a. Identify (organism) source and possible mode of transmission

Notify:

- Administrator
- Director of Nursing
- Attending physician/Medical Director
- Staff and department directors
- Family of the affected resident(s)
- Local/state health department, according to regulations
- Nursing will inform residents and their representatives within 12 hours of the occurrence of a single confirmed infection of influenza, COVID-19, or norovirus. One or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms and /or gastrointestinal symptoms that occur within 72 hours. Resident(s) and their responsible representatives will be informed of possible outbreak within the center.
- Social Services and nursing will notify all residents' responsible representatives of outbreak either by phone, email and/or written letter weekly or more frequently as needed.

SECTION D

1. Implement control measures based on sign, symptoms, diagnosis, mode of transmission, and location in the Center. Measures may include:
 - a. Transmission-based precautions
 - b. Restricting visitors
 - c. Screening all employees for elevated temperatures and signs/symptoms
 - d. Restricting affected residents from group activities
 - e. Suspending communal dining
 - f. Suspending admissions to affected unit
 - g. Suspending admissions to Center, if deemed necessary
 - h. Increasing housekeeping sanitation, intensive environmental cleaning with frequent cleaning of high touch areas
 - i. Staff Coordinator will implement staffing contingency plan for possible change in staffing levels

2. Once all has been reviewed with Administrator, Infection Preventionist, Medical Director and Nursing:
 - a. Conduct mandatory staff education
 - i. Hand hygiene
 - ii. Outbreak disease symptoms
 - iii. Reporting the occurrence of symptoms of resident and staff
 - iv. Transmission-based precautions
 - b. PPE will be made available in preparation for an outbreak
 - c. Advise staff who are exhibiting symptoms to stay at home
3. Monitor for effectiveness of investigation and control measures until cases cease to occur or return to normal level
4. Compare group of uninfected residents with infected residents
5. Conduct care practice observation IF cause implies a breakdown in resident care practices
6. Complete an Investigative Summary and submit a copy to
 - a. Nursing Director
 - b. Administrator
 - c. Medical Director

Summarize data/information collected; include case definition, contact tracing, cause, and final evaluation of outbreak.