



SKILLED NURSING | ASSISTED LIVING
HOMECARE SERVICES | REHABILITATION
HOSPICE CARE | KOSHER MEALS ON WHEELS

53 Walter Street | Ewing, NJ 08628

January 12, 2022

To Our Residents, Family Members and Staff
Special Edition
Still Important

The State of New Jersey is now at extreme risk for people getting the COVID-19 virus. As of December 30, 2021, New Jersey's positivity rate was 32.2%. (The positivity rate is the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive.) This percentage is extremely high and translates into a very high rate of transmission.

So that being said, let me tell you about my personal experience with the COVID-19 Virus. On January 5, 2022, (last Wednesday) I came to Greenwood House and was appropriately screened before entering the building and my temperature taken. However, I did report having a stuffy nose and I asked to be rapid tested for the virus. Fifteen minutes later I was dismayed to learn that I had tested positive. I was told to please exit the building and that I could not return until Monday the 10th of January when another rapid COVID test would be performed. Unfortunately, I again tested positive on the 10th and I am unable to return to Greenwood House until Monday, January 17th.

As for feeling ill, I did experience symptoms conducive to a bad head cold and also had fatigue and a dry cough. I truly believe that I would have fared much worse if I had not been vaccinated and had not received the booster. (Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving either the second dose of a two-dose vaccine series like those by Pfizer or Moderna, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine. If you are fully vaccinated, your risk of infection is lower and your risk of severe disease is much lower than if you are unvaccinated. The CDC also recommends additional booster vaccine doses for all adults.) I would urge all of you to get vaccinated and boosted.

As an aside, my wife Sandy also tested positive for COVID and has virtually no symptoms other than a stuffy nose. Sandy is fully vaccinated as well and received the booster. Now, if we could only figure out who gave it to who. I say Sandy, Sandy says me, in which case I told her as a good husband I always share everything with her.

Greenwood House continues to experience an outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus among its staff. Greenwood House has had 55 staff members test positive (the majority of which occurred over the last two months). All of the staff that tested positive were vaccinated and most had very mild symptoms. Almost all have recovered, but every day we receive a report of at least one staff member who has contracted the virus. Luckily, we have had only 11 residents that tested positive for the virus and all are asymptomatic. This is due for the most part by the Greenwood House staff following strict infection control policies. While the new indoor visitation guidelines remain in effect, the Omicron virus is extremely contagious and Greenwood House is still asking family and friends **NOT** to visit with the exception of End-of Life and Compassionate Care visits. We cannot enforce a no visitation policy as we must follow the Department of Health's Executive Directive to allow visitation. But we also need to keep our residents safe. We expect this 'surge' of new infections to continue now into the middle of January.

As a reminder, if you visit Greenwood House, you **MUST** follow the *Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention*.

As a reminder, the *Core Principles* are as follows:

1. Screening of all who enter our center for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
2. Hand Hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
3. Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) (see below)
4. Social distancing at least six feet between persons which means no more than two visitors in a resident's room
5. Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
6. Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
7. Appropriate staff and visitor use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
8. Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
9. Resident and staff testing as required under 42 CFR 483.80(h)

In addition, all visitors must wear a surgical mask when entering the building. We ask that you provide your own mask so that Greenwood House can conserve its PPE. Visitors are not to roam the hallways, linger at the nurse's station or inhabit any area not designated for their visit. We would also prefer that all visitors be rapid tested for COVID before entering the building. Again, this is not an enforceable rule.

***Note: Visitors who are unable to adhere to the *Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention* will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave.**

Unfortunately, we are stopping communal dining and communal activities until further notice.

We will be COVID testing all staff and residents twice per week until we receive an "End of Outbreak" letter from the Department of Health.

I wish all of you a safe and happy New Year. We must and will beat this virus!!

Sincerely,



Richard Goldstein
Executive Director
Greenwood House