

IMPORTANT: COVID-19 Update – July 10, 2020

To: Residents and Families of our Minnesota Communities

Since mid-March 2020, we have been operating under restricted visitor guidelines to only allow for medically essential visitors in order to mitigate risk for COVID-19. Today, the Minnesota Department of Health has released expanded guidance related to essential visitors. These guidelines will become effective on July 25, 2020. It is important to know that these guidelines do **NOT** apply now, but rest assured we will be working collaboratively as a team at each community to prepare.

Here are some things to know:

- The purpose of the expanded guidance is to allow for an interim step in encouraging safe and responsible visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. It follows weeks of discussions that included provider, MDH, consumer advocates and other stakeholders.
- Communities/facilities are not 'required' to allow for such visits, but the guidance provides recommendations for communities that choose to do this. The Waters will be developing their specific community plans in the coming days.
- Communities and providers need time to prepare policies, procedures and guidelines specific to each location. ***Please allow us to work on these plans in the next 11 days, and we will be sure to communicate with you as soon as our community plan is developed.***

What is expected of each Community?

- Communities will need to develop a process to **designate** 'essential caregivers' where appropriate. An 'essential caregiver' is defined as an individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to providing companionship and /or assistance with activities of daily living. The goal of such a designation, is to help ensure high risk residents continue to receive individualized, person-centered care.
- Minnesota Department of Health provided two pages of guidelines and specific procedures that we **MUST** have in place in order to mitigate risk.

We appreciate that this new guidance presents options for high risk residents to receive essential visits beyond what we have in place today. Please know that we will be working hard to execute a plan and process in the next two weeks.

As always, if you have any questions that you'd like to discuss, please feel welcome to contact your respective Waters community leadership or send an email inquiry to: COVID-19@thewaters.com

On behalf of everyone who works at The Waters Senior Living, we wish you continued good health.