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October 16, 2020

Re: Sholom Visitation Changes

Dear tenants, residents and family members,

Recently, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released new guidance regarding visitation in long term care, assisted living and independent senior living locations. For your reference, here is a link to the document: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcvisit.pdf>

To provide a careful and strategic re-introduction of visitation to Sholom’s location, the guidance also provides senior care organizations with the discretion to restrict visitation due any of the following factors:

- COVID-19 positivity rate of surrounding county
- Resident’s COVID-19 status
- Visitor symptoms
- Lack of adherence to proper infection control practices
- Or other relevant factors related to the COVID-19 public health emergency

At this time, because of COVID-19 positivity, visitation remains restricted at the following Sholom locations: Menorah Plaza, Sholom Home West, Roitenberg Family Assisted Living, Hodroff Pavilion for Memory Care, Chapman Sholom Home East, Bentson Family Assisted Living and Phillips Center for Memory Care. Please visit Sholom’s COVID-19 information and resources on www.sholom.com for further information on quarantine review dates by location.

Our team has thoroughly reviewed the guidance and below you will find the most pertinent information regarding visitation changes at Sholom.

II. Essential caregiver and Compassionate care visits allowed in long-term care, assisted and independent living facilities:

Definitions:

- Essential caregivers have been allowed in Sholom’s locations as determined by resident need and approval of Sholom’s interdisciplinary team (IDT). For clarification, an essential caregiver could be an individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to providing companionship and/or assistance with activities of daily living.
- NEW: Compassionate care visits are more broadly defined beyond end-of-life situations. Examples of compassionate care situations now include a resident who might be recently admitted to assisted living that is struggling with the transition due to lack of family support; a resident that is

**Rossy and Richard Shaller Family
Sholom East Campus, St. Paul**

Shirley Chapman Sholom Home East
Bentson Family Assisted Living Residence
Jay & Rose Phillips Center for Memory Care
Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Apartments
David Feinberg Vitality & Aquatics Center
Roitenberg Family Adult Day Center

**Sholom Home Care
Sholom Johnson Hospice Agency**

Twin Cities Metro Area

AA/EEO Employer

**Norman and Lisette Ackerberg Family
Sholom West Campus, St. Louis Park**

Sholom Home West
Knollwood Place Apartments
Roitenberg Family Assisted Living Residence
Leo & Doris Hodroff Pavilion for Memory Care
Menorah West
Menorah Plaza
Deikel Family AlterCare Adult Day

grieving the loss of someone who has recently passed away, etc. More examples can be found by visiting the reference link provided above. Sholom's IDT will be working with individual residents and family members to assist with these types of visits.

Essential Caregiver and Compassionate care visitor responsibilities:

- **Essential caregiver and compassionate care visits must be scheduled in advance in order to provide adequate staffing for screening and capacity limitations at Sholom locations which have had no COVID-19 positive resident or staff cases for 14 consecutive days or as otherwise determined by MDH county positivity rate guidelines.**
- Per MN Department of Health guidelines, Essential caregiver and compassionate care visits must adhere to **ALL** infection control guidelines or visits will be terminated by senior care organizations.
- All essential and compassionate caregivers are **strongly** encouraged to test weekly for COVID-19.
 - To be tested for COVID-19:
 - Caregivers can schedule testing with their personal health care provider and inform Sholom's guest services of test results prior to scheduled visit. If you do not have a provider, Valley Medical and Wellness conducts the PCR shallow nasal swab test (most reliable) at their three of their locations in the Twin Cities and guarantees a turn-around time of less than 24 hours. Learn more here: <https://www.valleymedical.com/contents/covid-19>
 - If the test is positive, caregivers need to self-quarantine for 14 days unless you remain symptomatic.

II. Window and outdoor visitation

- Outdoor and window visitation remains the preferred option as the manner in which the visit is conducted reduces the risk of transmission. A face covering must be worn during outdoor visits.

III. In person visits:

Will be allowed under these circumstances:

- There has not been a new facility onset COVID-19 case (resident or staff) in the last 14 consecutive days AND
- The 14-day COVID-19 county positivity rate is less than or equal to 10%, placing the Sholom in the low-risk or medium-risk category

If the above criteria are met, indoor visits are allowed in accordance with the following:

- Indoor visits are time limited and must be scheduled in advance in order to limit the total number of visitors in the building at one time and to ensure all residents are able to receive visitors
- A designated location will be made available for these visits. Visitors are required to walk directly to and remain in designated location.
- All in-person visits must observe all infections control guidelines, ie, face covering, maintain six feet physical distance, hand sanitization etc.
- Any residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 will only receive visits for compassionate care situations that are virtual, through windows or in-person with adherence to transmission-based precautions.

- Visitors are permitted for a final, controlled walkthrough tour of the facility for prospective residents.

IV. Independent living tenants who do not receive services are not required to be screened and tested for COVID-19, but they are required to follow the same criteria for in person visits as listed in section III and V.

V. All Visitors:

- **Must** sign in and out and leave contact information should a need arise for contact tracing.
- **Must** adhere to transmission –based precautions to include:
 - Screening when entering facility to include temperature check and complete questions about COVID-19 signs and symptoms.
 - Wearing of appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) - surgical masks and face shield or goggles
 - Conduct hand hygiene upon entering and exiting the facility
 - Maintain six feet physical distance

We understand this is a tremendous amount of information to absorb in one communication. We encourage you to read more at the MDH website regarding these changes.

Our goal is to provide the safest, most reasonable re-integration of visitors to Sholom’s locations in alignment with the guidance providing by MDH, CDC and CMS. Thank you for your continued support of Sholom.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horvath, OTR/L
Ackerberg Family Campus Interim Administrator
Administrator

Andrea Krebs, LNHA
Shaller Family Sholom East Campus