



3/13/20

Dear Residents, Patients, families and/ or responsible parties,

On 3/11/20, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially classified the COVID-19 virus a pandemic. This is defined as a disease that has spread across a large region such as multiple continents or even worldwide. Currently we only have 1 presumptive positive case for COVID-19 in the San Diego area and that individual has been confined to their home. There are approximately 938 confirmed cases throughout the US at the time of this writing.

I'm writing this letter to discuss what steps St Paul's senior services is taking to protect our residents, patients and guests and how best to minimize the impact of the virus.

St Paul's Senior Services has an active Infection Control committee staffed by doctors, nurses and other professional staff. This group has been meeting regularly for over 10 days and is following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the San Diego County Department of Public Health. We have also taken the following steps to prepare and address the COVID-19 virus outbreak:

- We have reconstituted the infection control task force at the Community Care Center (CCC) on Bankers Hill;
- We have increased our frequency and strength of sanitizing high touch areas throughout the facility;
- We have increased the number of sanitizing stations throughout the facility including by the elevators and entrance/ exits;
- Staff are being asked to wash and sanitize their hands frequently and are trained in effective hand-washing procedure;
- Staff are being screened for infections;
- We have doubled our medical supply orders;
- We are removing items that may cause cross contamination such as condiments, dining room set ups, hydration stations/ coffee stations, etc....;
- Volunteers are not coming to our facility at this time



We are following the regulations and guidance today in which the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services (CMS) that we restrict all visitation to residents at the facility except for emergent situations. In a statement by CMS Administrator, Seema Verma said,

“Last week, the president directed the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to raise the standards in our nursing homes, increase inspections at our nursing homes. Today, we’re offering very specific guidance…… today’s announcement concerns a temporary restriction to all visitors and non-essential personnel, with few exceptions, such as end-of-life situations.”

Also today, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency instituted an order of the health office in which it stated the following,

Effective 12:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, the following will be in effect for the county:

“Non-essential personnel,” as defined in section 11 below, are prohibited from entry into any hospital or long term care facility serving seniors. All essential personnel who show any potential signs or symptoms of COVID-19 shall be strictly prohibited from entry to hospitals or long term care facilities.

“Non-essential personnel” are employees, contractors, or members of the public who do not perform treatment, maintenance, support, or administrative tasks deemed essential to the healthcare mission of the long term care facility or hospital. Non-essential personnel does not include first responders, nor State, federal, or local officials, investigators, or medical personnel carrying out lawful duties.

Beginning at 5 PM today, Friday 3/13/20, we will no longer allow any visitation of nonessential personnel until further guidance is provided.

The following CDC guidelines also reference the population we serve and steps we are taking to minimize the impact. Likewise, it will assist you in your own preparation at home and preventing the further spread of the virus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

We ask for your understanding during this time. The guidance is changing almost daily and you may see further changes as they are communicated by the state or federal government. We know that this is an inconvenience and hardship on families. We encourage you to call or even



facetime your loved ones. For those who do still visit, please do not visit with them in our dining room or activity areas, but only in their rooms, or outside.

We truly hope these measures are only temporary, but we are concerned for your loved ones and they are our top priority. Please feel free to reach out to me personally if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Scott Meppen- Administrator

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