



Steere House

July 6, 2020

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

Dear Residents and Family Members,

As we move through these unprecedented times as a community, we know how difficult it has been for you to be separated from your loved ones. We are pleased that the "Drive-by" visit program has been going well and quite a number of families have made appointments. We do anticipate that on Wednesday this week the Governor will make additional announcements regarding "limited in-person" visitation. The guidance is strict and will significantly limit number of visitors overall to support contact tracing and exposure possibilities. Steere House has submitted a plan which meets State and Federal standards.

However, we want to communicate with you regarding limited visitation. Of course, we cannot begin visits unless it is safe for all and the regulations by the State and Federal government are met. Steere House serves residents who are vulnerable to COVID-19 infection, therefore we must move forward with the utmost care and consideration for their safety. We ask that you become familiar with some of the criteria below:

- All visits are by appointment, no walk in guests. NO guests under the age of 18 years.
- EMAIL: GWilliamson@steerehouse.org for scheduling an appointment. Gina will begin taking requests for appointments on, Thursday – July 9. However, please note the first day of any of the appointments is to be determined following any announcements from the Governor and the Rhode Island Department of Health.
- Drive by visits by appointment will continue as another option along with "virtual visits". Please do email Gina for these alternative visit opportunities.
- Everyone must get a "first visit" turn. Therefore, "second time around" visits will be following all the first visitation requests.
- We will be scheduling visits outdoors as much as we can - weather permitting. In the case of inclement weather, the visit may need to be rescheduled.
- The Activity Room Garden and the Activity Room are the designated visit areas.
- Please try to designate the same 1 or 2 individuals to visit in this beginning phase for purposes of contact tracing. These should be the most important or essential family individuals for the resident's overall wellness.
- Residents are allowed no more than two visitors at a time if outside or in our designated areas.
- Residents are allowed only 1 visitor if in a resident room and only if clinically permitted. The visitor will be escorted to/from the room from the atrium in these special circumstances.
- ALL visit in-person appointments are limited to 30 minutes.

- Steere House will periodically evaluate and modify our Visitation Guidance. IF there is a change we will send an email (or US postal letter as appropriate).
- Again, Please Email Gina Williamson, Activity Director to request and schedule an appointment. She will do her best to reply Monday – Friday. DO NOT make visit requests to the charge nurses or social workers at this time.

Additionally,

- All visitors must wear a face covering or masks.
- All visitors will be screened at the entryway, and sign documentation. Please note that visits will not be allowed if anyone is showing symptoms of illness.
- In accordance with regulatory requirements, visits will be monitored by a staff member to ensure that safety precautions are taken. Resident and Visitor will be maintain social distancing.
- We understand that this may feel uncomfortable, and we want to assure you that our goal is simply to maintain safety, and that your privacy is very important to us.
- All visitors must agree to monitor themselves for signs and symptoms for 14 days after leaving the facility, and if symptoms develop they must self-isolate at home, contact their health care provider, and inform Steere House immediately.

We appreciate your patience in these uncertain times as we work to safely reunite residents with their loved ones.

Steere House is aware how difficult this time is for all involved and are very appreciative for your support of our work to keep our community safe. Please contact us with your questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie H. Richard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Julie H. Richard, NHA, MA

Administrator