



Steere House

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

February 19, 2021

Dear Family Members and Friends of Steere House,

This letter is to provide you with an update regarding the Steere House COVID-19 status and to clarify some of the visitation information recently announced by Rhode Island Dept. of Health and in the media.

Testing at Steere House was completed on Tuesday, February 16th. NO residents and NO staff tested positive! Our next test day is Monday, February 22nd.

In regards to visitation, some nursing homes and assisted living facilities have not allowed visits on a regular basis. The announcement yesterday about visit restrictions was specifically intended to address those locations. Unfortunately, the way in which the announcement was made, and the way television media portrayed the information was quite confusing. Please note that Steere House has been in compliance with the regulations by the Rhode Island Dept. of Health and CMS. To quote Evan Shulman, CMS Director for the Division of Nursing Homes this week: "For the current time, all existing recommendations and guidance for visitation need to be adhered to... it's too early."

Here are some reminders about the Steere House visitation process:

- Appointment is needed. Contact Gina at GWilliamson@SteereHouse.org.
- Screening, Masks, and other infection control restrictions are required
- 2 guest in the activity room first floor, 30 minute visit
- 1 guest with restrictions in room, 30 minute visit
- No children under 18 years of age
- Compassion End of Life visits permitted by appointment

Social distancing is required for the visit with:

- Brief hand holding
- Brief Hugs

We can only imagine that even the opportunity to 'touch' is meaningful during a visit with your loved one. Hugs and hand holding is a special part of family life and love. As health experts navigate all the data on vaccinations, herd immunity and "ALL that is COVID-19", Steere House is hopeful we can move closer to what is the NEW normal.

As always, thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Julie H. Richard, Administrator