

Good evening,

No flu like symptoms to report for any residents. We continue with our respiratory outbreak with several residents in isolation from common cold symptoms.

We are coming to the end of week two(2) of pandemic and we continue to be in an ever changing environment. I think it's important that you as family are aware of what exactly is going on in our facility day to day which is why I felt it important to share the following with you. We receive updates daily from WRHA LTC and Manitoba Health. Every single morning we participate in a conference call that is chaired by the WRHA LTC that includes all PCH's across the city. These calls are where we share information about our current status at GLL re; HR issues/concerns, safety/health strategies for residents, supply issues, etc. Our physicians Dr. Ball and Dr. Doan are working diligently with our staff closely monitoring all residents. Both physicians are spending as much time as possible in our facility so they can see and assess our residents health. Dr. Ramgoolam is currently in self isolation as he was away.

As of today our respiratory outbreak is impacting the main floor only. It is for this reason today we moved forward with dining room changes. Effective today March 27, 2020, second (2nd) floor residents will no longer come downstairs to dine. We have temporarily modified the second (2nd) staff lounge and open areas maintaining the required six (6) foot distance. On the second (2nd) during meal times one cook and one dietary aide will take everything required to serve our residents their meal on the second (2nd) floor. We have rearranged all seating in the main floor dining room to accommodate all first (1st) floor residents while maintaining the required six (6) foot distance. These dining arrangements will remain in place until we are no longer in pandemic.

We take daily counts of all our supplies and continually advise WRHA Logistics when we require stock. We also are on the phone daily with supplier in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and the United States searching for more stock. Thank you to one of our family members who owns a medical supply company and graciously reached out to GLL to help with replenishing some of our stock. What does it mean when we put a resident on "Isolation?" It means that any staff entering the residents room must dress in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This measure is taken to help stop the spread. With five (5) residents currently in isolation on a daily basis for each resident per day we use approximately one hundred forty (140) gowns, one hundred forty (140) pairs of gloves, and one hundred forty (140) masks/face shields. Isolation usually requires two (2) staff entering the room. Multiply those numbers over days and you can quickly see how much needed stocks is used up in a short amount of time.

We want all residents to be as healthy as possible at all times but it becomes even more critical during pandemic. The changes that we have put in place today will impact our current Recreation Program strategies. Carolyn and Mike remain committed to provide our residents with as much interaction and stimulation as possible. Today we had birthday celebrations for residents as well as one to one.

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We are constantly reminding staff throughout the facility every single day to wash their hands and keep six (6) feet apart, it is a very challenging task given the type of work and care required. We have taken another measure to help protect our residents from Covid 19. All staff that are employed with another employer must immediately advise our HR department so that we can identify the risk their other job poses to our residents. In some cases we may ask staff to pick which employer they will remain with during pandemic. This is not something we want to do, but we have to so that we can reduce any risk of Covid 19 entering our building and infecting our residents.

Another measure that we have taken is immediate suspension of companions. We felt that it was too much of a risk given that companions often work in other facilities. We know residents and family depend on one to one support for their loved one. Where we can we will have HCA's scheduled to fill in for the vacancy of the companion.

Facetime and video calls continue as well as family attending our facility to see your loved one and share some moments of face to face smiles through the windows. Please do not request staff to open windows to talk thru screens. Doing this defeats the purpose of trying to keep the six (6) foot distance. We know this is hard, we see you come to the window and want so desperately to hug and give love. You may feel that we are being over cautious with this request but I assure you that we are just trying to follow the protocols that WRHA, Manitoba Health, Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada have put in place. Today Manitoba felt it's first loss of a human life to Covid 19. To date, Manitoba numbers have remained low and we pray it remains this way. But, if we do receive a wave of cases we want to ensure we are giving our home the best possible chances of absolute success. We need families to please follow the guidelines that we have been asked to follow. Know that as a team we are doing absolutely everything we possibly can to keep your loved ones safe during these unprecedented times.

We are thankful for your continued support and truly hope this will end soon.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact me, Alison or our Business Office.

Please see website below for updates:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>

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Instagram

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"Because when you stop and look around this life is pretty amazing" - author unknown

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