COVID-19 Update

**Covid-19 Policy and Procedures (8/19/2020)**

Here at Grace Living Personal Care Home, the residents’ health and safety is, and will forever be, our main priority. Currently, we are monitoring numerous state health organizations for the best recommendations, and have implemented the following policies and protocols, until further notice.

**Visitation Policy**

As a result of the state’s shelter in place order, we have changed our visitor guidelines again. Only **essential** personnel are allowed into the building. At this time family members can call in advance to schedule a visit to their loved ones if they choose. If family members would like to visit their loved ones, they have the option of sitting outside with their family member, so long as everyone involved is wearing a mask, and social distancing is still being practiced. But family members are not allowed to visit their family members inside the physical building. Please refer to the list below for a list of Essential (Allowed) and Non-essential staff (Not Allowed).

**Essential Personnel:**

Grace Living PCH Staff

Hospice Nurses

Compassionate Visits if resident is at end of life. Compassionate visits would only allow 1-2 family members at a time with a mask on.

Home Health Nurses – performing essential labs and wound care (Telemedicine for all other services)

Private Caregivers and Sitters

**Non-Essential Personnel that MAY NOT ENTER:**

Employee Interviews – only FaceTime/Skype Interviews, and interviews conducted outside.

Family members picking up mail or items in resident’s apartment. Follow guidelines for drop off supplies for residents.

Third-party Salesperson (Insurance, Cleaning Supplies, Hospice Marketing etc.)

Physical/Occupational Therapists

Hairdressers

Food delivery services.  Follow guidelines for drop off supplies for residents.

Failure to comply with visitor policy may result in agency or resident being asked to leave the community until the COVID-19 crisis has passed.

**Dress Code – Best practices**

For staff who have direct contact with residents

* Always keep a mask on when interacting with other residents. They are more suspectable to coughing and sneezing, so it is vital that the safety of the staff is also ensured before caring for the resident.
* Make sure to change gloves regularly, particularly when a staff member finishes interacting with a resident. Gloves prevent cross-contamination, but they do not prevent germs from living on the gloves altogether. We are making sure our CNAs are aware that they must change their gloves after every physical interaction with a resident.
* Keep fingernails short and clean. No extension nails.
* If a staff member has hair that extends beyond their neck, we recommend they tie it into a ponytail.

**Dining and Food Service**

* We are continuously monitoring everyone’s behavior and overall well-being. Therefore, we will continue to hold breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the dining area, until further notice. If a resident displays any respiratory issues, or shows any symptoms of illness, then that resident will eat in their room until said symptoms subside and have been evaluated by a physician.

**Activities**

* We will still be conducting activities such as bingo, trivia, coloring, etc. with residents who wish to partake in said activities. We will still practice social distancing if the participating group is larger than 10. In-house staff will lead all activities only. No outside speakers or volunteers will be allowed at this time.

**Transportation**

* Doctor’s appointments are currently the only outings that we are authorizing at this time.

**Other**

* All common spaces, furniture, counters and surfaces are thoroughly cleaned with sanitizing fluid daily.
* High touch areas such as doorknobs, handrails, light switches, etc. will also be sanitized multiple times throughout the day.
* Dining tables and chairs are sanitized after every meal and activities that are conducted in the dining area.
* Grace Living staff will be closely monitoring residents for any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Our staff will also be monitored for signs and symptoms of Covid-19, and they will get their temperature checked before beginning of their respective shifts.

**Guidelines for Observing and Monitoring Residents for COVID-19**

Call 911 if a resident or staff member exhibit the following signs and symptoms

* Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
* Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
* Bluish lips or face
* High fever or chills
* Fatigue
* Headaches or Body aches
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea
* Sore throat
* New loss of taste or smell
* Congestion or runny nose