



TO: Mill Street Tenants & Family Members
From: Mick Siems, Director
DATE: October 23, 2020
RE: Visitation Update

Dear Mill Street Tenants & Family Members,

The MN Department of Health issued new guidance on October 12th specific to visitation in assisted living settings. This guidance was set to take effect on October 17th and included some significant changes. As we've been getting calls related to this new guidance, I thought I'd share what our current and future plans are regarding visitation.

With the colder temperatures (and snow!) that we've had over the past week, our outside visit as well as window visit options have been moved indoors. Our private dining room has been set up as our designated indoor visitation area. Please call our main number (218-739-2900) to pre-schedule a visit; a 24-hour advance notice is preferred. Visits are limited to 45 minutes in length and three visitors at a time. Please note that these indoors visits will/may be discontinued for a period of time if a tenant or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 or the positivity rate in our County or community is at a high level.

Essential Caregiver visits are going well and have been very well-received. We have 15 or so family members and/or friends who have gone through the orientation process with another 10-15 anticipated. The process for becoming an Essential Caregiver is pretty simple. Documentation of a negative COVID test is required. Once you have that in place you can contact Tara (218-736-8558) to schedule an orientation. Essential Caregivers are allowed to come daily with visits lasting up to three hours in length. The hours are from 9:00am – 7:00pm most week days and from 11:00am – 7:00pm one weekend per month. Pre-scheduling a visit is required by calling our main number; a 24-hour advance notice is preferred. Tenants are limited to assigning just one Essential Caregiver at this time, and we do have a restriction of having no more than 8 caregivers in the building at the same time.

The biggest change related to the new visitation guidance involves the length of time the facility needs to be COVID-free before additional visitors can be allowed in. Previously, facilities were required to be COVID-free for 28 continuous days. This includes both tenants and staff. That time frame has now been shortened to 14

continuous days, with facilities being given some leeway on how they allow additional visitation.

At Mill Street, our plan is to continue with the designated area indoor visits and Essential Caregiver visits **only** for the next several weeks. The reason behind this decision is that the amount of COVID in our community has been increasing as noted by the uptick in calls the hospital has been receiving for testing. Once we feel comfortable that the prevalence of COVID in our community has stabilized or, better yet, declined we will consider opening up to additional visitors. This will include allowing more than just one Essential Caregiver per tenant, as well as allowing additional visitors in our building for visits in tenant apartments.

As always, the health and well-being of both our staff and our tenants continues to be our highest priority. If you have any questions or concerns you are invited to contact me at 218-736-8590. I will continue to provide updates on any important news and/or emerging issues. You are also welcome to visit our website (www.millstreet.org) to view our current situational update and and COVID testing results. Have a great weekend!