

March 12, 2020

To: Conservators and/or Family Members of Peppermint Ridge Residents

Cc: Peppermint Ridge Board of Directors, Regional Center Service Coordinators

From: Danette McCarns, Executive Director

Re: Corona Virus Information

I know that we are all concerned about the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and if we are doing enough to protect everyone as best as possible at Peppermint Ridge. Our priority continues to be that all Ridgers are healthy, happy and safe. We are working hard to avoid the introduction of the virus into our homes and campus, and thus putting your and our loved ones at risk.

As of this date, there are no known cases of COVID-19 in the Corona area. There are reportedly 8 individuals that have been diagnosed with the virus in Riverside County. We are monitoring and following recommended guidelines and best practices from a variety of sources, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Riverside County Department of Public Health, our associations, the Department of Developmental Services and Inland Regional Center. In addition we have formed a task force to proactively implement steps to ensure the continued wellbeing of all.

Please know we are committed to have optimum infection control standards at The Ridge. These include our Registered Nurses completing a baseline for all individuals living here, and daily assessments by the Direct Training Staff. We have posted signs and provided training to ensure people do not enter if coughing, or exhibit other illness symptoms. We have reminded all staff to wash hands and decreased physical contact (including teaching and reinforcing residents to do the same). We have suspended large group (co-mingling of homes) activities in confined spaces and alternate day program at Dudley Center- with provision of replacement activities at the homes and other Ridge locations, in home groups only.

Decisions regarding community activities are being made based on the activity, location and attendees. For example, we will continue with NDR horseback riding, but will not attend Party Partners for the time being. We have been in contact with our partners with the Day Programs, and have been assured that they are taking precautions as well, assessing individuals for symptoms, practicing infection control, etc. Some Ridgers have been held back from Day Program given their being more susceptible to illness. At some point, we may be faced with all Ridgers suspended from Day Programs and possible curtailment of community activities.

We have done an inventory of our infection control supplies and have ensured that all locations have adequate amounts, staff are disinfecting and sanitizing continuously, and all are working on teaching and reinforcing Ridgers and others to use universal precautions as outlined in many postings by the CDC and others.

At this time, we request that family, friends and others keep their visits to a minimum. Out of an abundance of caution, we would like to limit visitors to Peppermint Ridge unless absolutely necessary. We do encourage phone calls, texts, and any other form of communication with your loved ones and/or their staff. If you believe a visit to Peppermint Ridge is necessary, we request that you are in good health, wash your hands frequently while here and practice 'social distancing' (avoid shaking hands or hugs, keep larger personal space) if possible. We offer hand washing and alcohol based hand sanitizer stations throughout The Ridge, which you are welcomed to use.

Please make sure we have your most current emergency contact information. We want to be able to efficiently communicate with you should there be any new developments. Please reach out to your loved one's facility manager or administrator with your updated contact information.

We will stay up to date with CDC, the local and state health department as well as other's guidance and recommendations as they may continue to change.

We will notify you if any residents or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19. Should you have had recent contact with any Ridge resident or staff and you are diagnosed with COVID-19, please let us know.

Please feel free to call your loved one's administrator or myself (951.273.7324) if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the men and women of Peppermint Ridge.

Sincerely,

Danny