GARDANT MANAGEMENT: Modified Visitor/Operations Policy

Purpose:
During the flu season and public health situations/emergencies such as COVID-19, our community visitation practices shall be amended to reflect infection control safety protocols. The purpose of this Modified Visitor/Operations Policy is to provide guidance to reduce disease transmission such as colds, influenza, and potential COVID 19.

Policy:
Our community is committed to providing a home-like environment while prioritizing our residents’ safety and welfare. Due to the very serious impact of COVID-19, we have altered our visitation policy, modified activities to lessen exposure, added protocol for entering the community for staff/essential visitors, and established alternative communication methods in lieu of for face-to-face visits.

Responsibilities:
A. The Administrator, or designee, will notify all residents and resident representatives of the provisions contained within the Modified Visitor/Operations Policy.
B. The community will designate a staff member during business hours at the front entrance to ensure that all essential visitors and community staff follow the visitor policy, adhere to handwashing provisions, and are free from respiratory symptoms and fever.
C. The Resident Services Coordinator will notify all residents and resident representatives of modifications to the monthly activity schedule.
D. The Administrator, or designee, will notify all residents and resident representatives of their remote communication options.

Procedure:
A. The community will limit entry to only individuals who need entry:
   1. This includes individuals needed to keep operations running and assure resident’s needs are met; typically, this would include employees, physicians and nurse practitioners, contractors, healthcare consultants.
   2. Government regulators or other government officials.
   3. Resident’s Immediate family/friends who need to visit for critical or time sensitive reasons, such as hospice related visits, to complete/sign medical authorizations, etc. This includes immediate family visitors for residents with dementia, anxiety, etc. for whom these visits are a significant aspect of their treatment plan.
   4. Routine social visits by family/friends shall be greatly discouraged/curtailed until further notice.
(This is not a total ban on all visitors. In our person-centered environment of assisted living, the circumstances for the reasons for entry need to be taken into consideration.)

B. Of those individuals allowed to enter, they must also pass the following screen:
   1. Be free of respiratory symptoms, such as fever, sore throat, cough, new shortness of breath.
   2. Not have a history within the last 14 days of travel to areas where a COVID-19 outbreak has been confirmed, including US communities where community spread has been documented.
   3. Not have a recent employment history in another healthcare setting with confirmed COVID-19 exposure.

C. Require all staff and essential visitors entering the property to wash their hands/utilize alcohol-based hand gel upon entry and frequently wash their hands/utilize alcohol based hand gel while in the building.

D. Periodically clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces following cleaning product manufacturer’s directions.

E. Until further notice, cancel all internal group activities and all external resident outings; individual transportation to medical appointments will continue.

F. Establish and encourage use of electronic means of communications for residents, families, visitors to minimize any feelings of isolation/loneliness, including Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, etc.