

June 22, 2020

Residents, Resident Representatives, Team Members and Community Members:

We are receiving questions related to facility visitations from community, resident representatives and residents. In an effort to address this question StoneRidge Retirement Living Community Centers are required to follow ***Guidance issued from the PA Department of Health on June 2, 2020 (1)***. This guidance outlines the following:

“As counties enter the Green Phase of Governor Wolf’s Process to Reopen Pennsylvania, congregate care restrictions remain in place. Skilled nursing care facilities (SNFs) licensed by the Department of Health (Department) are congregate care facilities. Per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Nursing Home Reopening Recommendation for State and Local Officials, the Department is following the recommendation of choosing a longer waiting period after the counties in which the SNFs are located enter the Green Phase before relaxing restrictions in those SNFs.

Due to the nature of the vulnerable population living in SNFs, the restrictions put in place by the ***Department’s Interim Guidance for Skilled Nursing Care Facilities During COVID-19 (2)*** shall remain in effect for at least 28 more days after the beginning of the Green Phase in those counties.

To develop a well-informed, manageable plan that ensures a measured approach for the safe return to activities, visitation, and other events for residents of SNFs, the Department is conferring with stakeholders that include the state’s ombudsman, representatives from SNFs, nursing home associations, other government agencies, and academia. Upon completion of that process, the Department will issue guidance that amends the restrictions currently in place.

For additional resources regarding COVID-19 and SNFs in Pennsylvania, please visit the Department’s ***COVID-19 Information for Nursing Homes (3)*** webpage”

We at StoneRidge Retirement Living acknowledge the hardship that COVID-19 has had on everyone we serve, most importantly our Residents, Resident Representatives and Team Members. Part of this hardship has been the mandated limitation on community access and visitation. We are all eager to “get back to routine visitation” in all of our facilities, whatever that will look like in this new infection control COVID-19 environment. As noted in the above memorandum referenced, facilities are required to remain with restrictions in place for at least 28 days after the beginning of the green phase for our counties. The restriction on visitation is not impacted by new resident or team member cases of COVID-19. While this indicator is important in measuring the effectiveness of interventions the facility is implementing to prevent and manage COVID-19 within the facility, it is not a definitive measure on visitation or lifting visitation restrictions.

In an effort to begin transitioning our communities to a point that we are prepared to begin visitations, StoneRidge Communities are actively planning how and under what situations visitation may occur. Based on current guidance we do know that the following limitations will be in place when we are prepared to offer scheduled visitations. Limitations include screening all visitors to insure they are free of symptoms indicative of COVID-19 and free of a temperature for the last 72 hours. Infection control

measures such as wearing a mask, hand washing or hand hygiene with alcohol based hand sanitizer and social distancing of at least 6 feet. Additional guidance on what the requirements are related to scheduled visitations will be communicated as we develop the plan and get closer to implementation. All StoneRidge Communities have provisions in place for compassionate care visitations based on a residents clinical status and the ability of the resident representative to follow facility policy related to prevention of COVID-19 when visiting a loved one under compassionate care situations.

StoneRidge Retirement Living Communities would like to thank our residents, resident representatives, team members and community members for your understanding and support during this challenging time and ask that if you have any questions to reach out to your facility administration and/or corporate leadership as we partner together and manage through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Respectfully,

Robert Fodor Jr. RN/NHA
Vice President of Skilled Operations and Clinical Services
StoneRidge Retirement Living Communities

Reference Documents Listed Above

(1) PA Department of Health – Restrictions to Protect Residents in Skilled Nursing Care Facilities Temporarily Remain in Place in Counties in the Green Phase of the Governor’s Process to Reopen Pennsylvania.

<https://sais.health.pa.gov/commonpoc/content/FacilityWeb/attachment.asp?messageid=3908&filename=Restrictions+to+Protect+SNF+Residents+in+Green%2Epdf&attachmentnumber=1>

(2) Interim Guidance for Nursing Care Facilities During COVID-19

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/COVID-19%20Interim%20Nursing%20Facility%20Guidance.pdf>

(3) PA Department of Health - COVID-19 Information for Nursing Homes

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Nursing-Homes.aspx>