



Dear Family Members, Loved Ones, and Outside Parties,

I am writing to inform you of a recent development by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) allowing for the care of residents by Essential Caregivers within Hamilton Continuing Care Center. Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers, private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, and pursuant to the NJDOH Executive Directive No. 20-026, Essential Caregivers may assist in the care of individual residents at HCCC.

An Essential Caregiver is an outside individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to assisting and encouraging with activities of daily living and other care needs. The decision to designate an Essential Caregiver will be individualized and integrated with person-directed care planning. Please note that Essential Caregiver visitation is not solely to provide social visits.

Essential Caregivers will be subject to strict infection prevention rules during their visits within Hamilton Continuing Care Center, including both social distancing and hand hygiene requirements. Also, Essential Caregivers must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during their visits and must watch the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) video on donning and doffing PPE.

For the safety and wellbeing of the residents and staff, Hamilton Continuing Care staff members strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers demonstrate results of two negative COVID-19 tests before providing care to the residents: the first negative COVID-19 test should occur seven (7) days prior to the second test. The second test should occur no more than five (5) days prior to the visit to Hamilton Continuing Care Center. The Essential Caregiver should thereafter continue to demonstrate negative COVID-19 tests on a weekly basis or two (2) negative COVID-19 tests prior to returning to provide care within our center, Hamilton Continuing Care.

Please see the attached "Hamilton Continuing Care Center Rules for Essential Caregivers During the COVID-19 Pandemic" for more information on the Essential Caregiver program at Hamilton Continuing Care Center. I have also attached the "Hamilton Continuing Care Essential Caregiver Application" for your information and use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or concerns regarding the new Essential Caregiver program at Hamilton Continuing Care Center.

Sincerely,

Melissa Salyerds S.W.