March 13, 2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

We know many of you are concerned about the spread of COVID-19 (the new coronavirus) and how it may impact us here at Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center. **Ensuring residents are cared for in a safe and healthy environment is our first priority.** At this time, we don’t have any cases in our facility. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recommended a variety of steps that we are implementing to help reduce the potential for the virus to enter our building. However, we need your help in battling COVID-19. Below are some examples of how you can help protect the residents, as well as prevent the spread throughout the community.

**Effective immediately, family and friends will no longer be allowed to visit the facility.** Out of an abundance of caution, we are limiting all visitors to our facility unless absolutely necessary. We are posting signs on our entryway doors to notify visitors of this policy and actively screening staff, medical personnel and vendors who must come into the building.

We understand that connecting with your loved one is very important, and there are a variety of other ways you may communicate with them, including telephone, text, email, video chat or social media. You may also call the Nurse’s Station to check on your loved one at: Area A – (678) 420-2918; Area B – (678) 420-2919; Area C – (678) 420-2920; and Area D – (678) 420-2921.

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The only exceptions to the new visitation policy are: 1) your loved one has just been admitted to Sadie G. Mays (one person may come and stay no more than 15 minutes); or 2) Your loved one is actively transitioning (end of life). However, prior approval is still needed before entering the facility. For approval during the week, contact Social Services at (678) 420-2914 or (678) 420-2950. At all other times, contact the On Call Supervisor at (470) 334-1757. **We have also discontinued Leave of Absences, until further notice.** This is to safeguard our residents from exposure to the virus while out in the community. **Please make sure we have your most current, emergency contact information.** Call Social Services with your updated contact information so that we can reach you with any new developments.

Residents who are able, please help prevent the spread of infection by washing your hands frequently with soap and water (at least 20 seconds). Additionally, if you cough or sneeze, please use a tissue and discard in the trash or cough into your elbow. We offer hand-washing facilities and alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, which you may use. Please also avoid shaking hands and hugging. If you are experiencing a cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and/or shortness of breath, please notify the nursing staff immediately.

Our facility is following the recommendations of the CDC on prevention steps, including following strict hand-washing procedures, and wearing gowns and gloves if interacting with residents who present symptoms. We also are staying up-to-date with the CDC recommendations as they change. In addition, our facility is in close contact with the local and state health department, and we are following their guidance. **We will notify you if any residents or staff members are diagnosed with COVID-19.**

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our facility at (404) 794-2477 or visit www.sgmays.org. You may also visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus. **Thanks for your cooperation!**