



414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
815-734-4103

August 11, 2021

Dear resident/resident representative,

It has been nearly a year and a half since the lives of our residents, staff and residents' family and friends were upended by COVID-19. During the entirety of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the dedicated staff of Pinecrest Community have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

The well-being of our residents has always been our highest priority and we continue to follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and our local health department.

As the Delta variant has now been identified in Ogle County, vaccination becomes exponentially more critical. After an initial acceptance rate of 51% among our staff, I am pleased to report that over 85% of our employees are now fully vaccinated, and we continue to provide education about the importance of the vaccine and provide frequent opportunities to our staff and their families to receive the vaccine. Ninety-seven percent of Pinecrest Manor and Terrace residents are fully vaccinated. While the Delta variant has been shown to be contracted and carried by vaccinated individuals, a recent CDC report shows that since July 26, 99.9% of hospitalizations and deaths from COVID are among unvaccinated individuals.

Due to the prevalence of the Delta variant, IDPH has published updated guidance for nursing homes that are effective immediately. This letter addresses the most significant changes to the guidance:

- **Visitors must now wear a mask throughout their time in Pinecrest – including outdoor visits.** Previous guidance allowed visitors to remove their mask in the resident's room if the visitor and the resident were fully vaccinated. ***This is no longer the case.*** A mask must be worn appropriately over the nose and mouth throughout your visit to Pinecrest. Anyone failing to comply with this requirement will be asked to leave.
- **Visitors must perform hand hygiene upon entrance to the facility.** Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is provided at all kiosk stations and should be used by everyone entering the building.
- **When visiting, guests must proceed directly to the resident's room. Visitors may not visit with other residents or stop in any public area including lounges, dining rooms, beauty shop, chapel or activity rooms.** Visitors may use public restrooms but all other areas are off limits.
- **Beginning Monday, August 16, visits no longer need to be prescheduled. Residents may have a maximum of three visitors at one time. Visit lengths are not limited.**
- **Visitors must check in using the kiosk at the start of each visit. COVID screening questions must be answered and temperature must be taken. When the visit concludes, visitors must check out at the kiosk.**

- **Visitors are required to notify Pinecrest immediately if they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 within three days after visiting.**
- **Out of state visitors should contact Pinecrest prior to visiting and speak with the administrator or the infection preventionist. Extra precautions, such as a rapid test and/or wearing PPE such as gown and gloves, may be required.**
- **Residents must wear a mask throughout the halls, during activities and during their time in the dining room unless they are eating or drinking.** Residents may remove their mask in their rooms but should put the mask on when a caregiver or visitor enters the room. Residents who are unable to tolerate a mask will be offered a face shield. If the resident absolutely cannot tolerate a mask or face shield, the resident's care plan will be updated to indicate that.
- **All new admissions, readmissions and residents who are out of the building over midnight, regardless of vaccination status, are required to quarantine for fourteen days. Residents in quarantine cannot have visitors during the quarantine period.** Exceptions to this visitation restriction will be made for hospice/end of life/compassionate care situations.
- **If at any time a positive test result is received by a staff member or resident, all planned visits must be paused, and communal dining and group activities must be suspended until a full round of testing of residents and staff can occur.** If no new positive test results are received, visits, communal dining and activities on the unaffected units may be resumed. The affected unit must quarantine for fourteen days. Because of the need to communicate quickly, please watch our Facebook page for notification of visit cancellation or call Pinecrest before visiting to avoid being turned away.

Thank you for your continued effort to help us keep your loved ones safe. If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to call or email me at [flabash@pinecrestcommunity.org](mailto:flabash@pinecrestcommunity.org). You may also contact Jolene LeClere, Administrator of Health Services, at 815-734-4103 or email [jleclere@pinecrestcommunity.org](mailto:jleclere@pinecrestcommunity.org).

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the safety of our residents and staff. Together we are stronger!

Sincerely,



Ferol J. Labash  
Chief Executive Officer