



To Our Residents and Family Members:

The current COVID-19 outbreak situation means that it is critical that we take every precaution possible. Protecting your health and safety is our top priority, and we are doing everything we can to prevent this virus from entering our community.

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.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are limiting all visitors to our setting unless absolutely necessary. We are posting signs on our entryway doors to notify visitors of this policy and actively screening individuals, including staff, who need to come into the building.

In addition to limiting visitors we are cancelling outside entertainment, music, bible study groups, and other external student groups. Transportation will be for medical appointments only. We are asking for you to please wait to be seating in the dining room to allow staff the opportunity to properly clean your dining space. The dining room will be closed in between meals to maintain the overall cleanliness of the area.

If you believe a visit to Watkins Manor is necessary, we request that you contact nursing at 507-459-0561 prior to your arrival.

We understand that communication with your loved ones is incredibly important and encourage you to communicate with them in other ways such as the telephone, video chat, e-mail, or social media.

In addition to limiting visitation to prevent the illness in our setting, we are also focused on infection control best practices with our staff and residents.

Please know we are following the recommendations of the CDC on prevention steps, including following strict handwashing procedures, and in many



circumstances, wearing gowns and gloves when interacting with residents who present symptoms. We also are staying up to date with the CDC recommendations as they may continue to change. In addition, we remain in close contact with the local and state health department and are following their guidance.

Residents can also help prevent the spread of infection by exercising proper [hand washing hygiene](#) as well as [coughing and sneezing etiquette](#). Please also avoid shaking hands and hugs with any individual. If you are experiencing a cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and/or shortness of breath, please let a staff member know immediately.

Communication is key, and we will continue to update you on any news, emerging issues, or changes in our regular operations. Please make sure we have your most current contact information so we can efficiently communicate with you should there be any new developments.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are keeping the safety, health and wellness of our residents and staff as our number one priority. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 507-494-7496.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Krage, Director