

To help us prepare for the Designated Caregiver Program, we need to identify how many people are interested in participating as a Designated Caregiver. The residents and Substitute Decision Maker are to designate two people able to participate. We need this information as soon as possible to help us plan. If you are interested, please call the following number and leave the resident's name, location, and your contact information.

902-407-6316

We know that many people are excited about the announcement allowing Designated Caregivers into Northwood and other Long Term Care homes. We will be offering this opportunity to residents and their families. The safety of all residents is our top priority and we understand that their mental wellbeing is important for their safety. Introducing this program involves a great deal of planning and there is no one size fits all solutions. We hope to have our detailed plan and start date available later this week. We would also like to try and give you a clear understanding of the role of the Designated Caregiver. The Designated Caregiver will do those things that they would have done when visiting previous to COVID-19. Perhaps your loved one needs support with meals, encouragement with fluids, or the organization of their personal belongings. We understand that the mental health and emotional wellbeing of residents is very important. Two people can be designated by the resident or SDM and can visit one person at a time.

We know the weather is getting cooler so the opportunity to continue with outdoor visits is limited. We will be transitioning the visits indoors into our larger activity areas. We plan to increase the number and length of time of those visits starting next week. With indoor visits, both residents and families are required to wear masks. The number of visitors continues to be limited to one at a time for indoor visits.

Residents are also enjoying the ability to come off the floors/homes and enjoy the common space. They are required to wear masks in the elevators, hallways, and spaces where social distancing is not possible.

With all the indoor activity going on, we would like to determine the number of families interested in participating as a Designated Caregiver. This will help with the planning and scheduling of all indoor activities to review the use of elevators, and the ability for social distancing to continue to maintain a safe environment for everyone who lives works, and visits the facility.

Additional information for Designated Caregivers:

- Two individuals can be designated by the resident and Substitute Decision Maker.
- Like our staff, PPE will include the requirement to wear a mask for the entire visit.
- Training on PPE will be provided before you go on the floor/home.
- Frequency and duration of time on the floor/home will depend on the number of families per floor/home participating as Designated Caregivers.
- Designated Caregivers will be accompanied to the resident's room and engage with residents in their room only.

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