



# Lester Senior Housing Community

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## Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19 Updates for Weston Assisted Living Residence November 5, 2020

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Leading Age/LeadingAge NJ

National Affordable Housing  
Management Association/JAHMA

National Apartment Association/  
NJ Apartment Association

*An Equal Housing Opportunity Provider*



This update is to inform you that on November 5, 2020 we have had one (1) new confirmed COVID-19 positive asymptomatic resident at Weston Assisted Living. Consistent with our pandemic protocols the resident will be quarantined in their apartment for 14 days and all residents and staff will continue to be tested weekly.

During our investigation we found out that the family, despite our guidelines and policies, took her mother out of the Community to get a haircut. While the family member signed in, the guard called the nursing office to see if the resident had a weekend procedure or physician's appointment. While the guard was doing this the family member left the desk to go outside. When the guard went outside to find the family member she was gone from the lobby. When nursing went upstairs to ensure the resident was still in the Community, they found out she wasn't. They immediately called the family member and was told that they took their mother for a haircut. Unfortunately, we have to suspend this family's visitation and their parent needs to stay in their apartment until cleared.

We understand how challenging these times are for everyone. It is challenging for the staff as well. But, we have guidelines, Governors orders and regulations to follow. When you ask for exceptions or try to work around these orders you not only put your family member in jeopardy but yourself and our staff. We know as we were told by a family two months ago that their family member is over a certain age therefore we should make an exception for them because they might not be here next year. While we sympathize and truly feel bad we cannot do that because where do we draw the line.

With every action there is a consequence and this consequence is huge for us. We had been working to get approval to open the beauty parlor, indoor dining, increased small group activities indoors and indoor visitation. The staff worked on policies and we already have set up a safe area for the indoor visitation. The request was ready to go to the state to allow us to go to the next phase. With every phase there are requirements to meet. We had plans to do the above listed things at the end of next week, we will now not be able to do that. The requirement is we now have to wait 21 days from when we when we tested the positive resident to start indoor visitation and 28 days before we can start any of the other services listed above. Additionally, we need a letter from the Department of Health telling us we can do the above so it may be longer.

We cannot stress to you enough that you must not vary or "sneak" something such as taking your parent to a necessary medical appointment and then going to a restaurant or hairdresser. You put the entire Community at Risk.

The Jewish Community Housing Corporation of Metropolitan New Jersey is an affiliated agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

**PROPERTIES:** Jewish Federation Plaza, South Orange B'nai B'rith Federation House, Village Apartments of the Jewish Federation and the Lester Senior Housing Community, including: The Martin & Margaret Heller Independent Living Apartments, the Judith & Josh Weston Assisted Living Residence and the Aresty Family Pavilion.

What you do affects others. Because of one person that we are aware of going out to someplace they shouldn't, has now affected the entire Community and pushes back our ability to bring back some of the things that bring residents joy.

While you may not agree with what we are required to do, please understand that we are doing what is required and what is necessary to protect the residents, staff and you. Each decision is reviewed and discussed. It is emotionally challenging for everyone involved and the staff including management do not want to have to deny requests but we know that it is the right thing to do.

**We want to remind you of our guidelines:**

- ❖ ***Everyone must wear a mask at all times, except when residents are by themselves in their units;***
- ❖ ***Everyone must maintain social distancing, remaining at least six(6) feet apart from others (we know that you want to hug and kiss your parent or friend but we must ask you from refraining from doing that even though it is hard. If a staff member sees this during a visit they have been instructed to end the visit);***
- ❖ ***Residents may visit with family and friends on-site outside of the building (i.e., no apartment visits) under the following conditions:***
  - ***Each resident may have as many as two (2) on-site scheduled visits total per week;***
  - ***Each visit must be scheduled 48 hours in advance with JCHC staff. You may call Keisha McDonald at 973-929-2731 or email her at [keisham@jchcorp.org](mailto:keisham@jchcorp.org);***
  - ***Each visitor must be at least 18 years of age or older;***
  - ***Pets are not allowed; and***
  - ***No items are to be given directly to residents. All deliveries must be left with security.***
- ❖ ***Residents may leave the property only for necessary medical appointments that have been coordinated through nursing.***
- ❖ ***All visitors must have already self-quarantined for a period of not less than 14 days when:***
  - ***Returning from travelling out of state or visiting from another state identified by the State of New Jersey; or***
  - ***Showing any flu like symptoms***
- ❖ ***Residents and visitors alike need to need to wash their hands frequently with soap and water.***

If all of us – residents, resident family members and friends, JCHC staff and vendors alike – can continue to take these common-sense steps to protect ourselves and one another, we remain hopeful that we will be able to keep COVID-19 away from the Lester Senior Housing Community.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide further updates relating to the Lester Senior Housing Community and COVID-19, including any changes in our protocols. If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Lester Senior Housing Community Administrator, Anna Burke at 973-929-2747 or [annab@jchcorp.org](mailto:annab@jchcorp.org).

Stacey Wilbur, LNHA  
Chief Operating Officer