



A Senior Care Community



### **Update Published August 17, 2020**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently issued guidance that outlines criteria and makes recommendations on how we can safely re-open our setting to visitors, and continue to protect the health of our residents and staff. MDH is allowing individual care communities to make the final decision on re-opening to visitors, based on our unique situation.

Resuming visitation in our setting is a difficult decision because it will increase exposure to the virus, and our residents are at higher risk of complications if exposed to COVID-19. Yet, we also know that the ongoing separation from family and friends, and feelings of isolation can also have a negative impact on our residents. The threat of this devastating and deadly virus is still with us. Minnesota, including Rochester and Olmsted County, is experiencing an increase in the number of positive cases in areas across our state, which can pose a greater risk of exposure to both our residents and our staff.

The MDH guidance has specific criteria that we will use to evaluate, and determine when we can safely re-open our setting to visitation. It also applies to when we may need to restrict visitation based on the status and risk of exposure to COVID-19 for our residents and staff. Based on a thorough review of this guidance, an assessment of our current status and COVID-19 response plan, and our commitment to protect our residents and staff, WE WILL NOT be resuming visitation inside our building at this time.

We will re-evaluate this decision based on clinical factors weekly and will keep you informed on the status of when we will resume visitation in our setting. We understand this is difficult news to receive. Please know we continue to offer outdoor visitation, window visits and visits through technology, as well as compassionate care visits. Thank you again for being partners with us in fighting the COVID-19 virus.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Kyla Berg at 507-424-4041 or Rachael Paddock at 507-424-5454 if you have any questions or concerns.

### **VIDEO CALLS & OUTDOOR VISITS**

To set up a video call with your loved one, please contact:

Home on Eighth and Rehabilitation Residents

Allison, Life Enrichment Mentor, at [adaraad@samaritanbethany.com](mailto:adaraad@samaritanbethany.com) Or 507-424-4064

Arbor Terrace Residents

Shane, Life Enrichment Coordinator, at [shoffman@samaritanbethany.com](mailto:shoffman@samaritanbethany.com) or 507-424-4063