To: Mt. Carmel residents and family members  
From: Mt. Carmel Administration  
Date: March 13, 2020  
Regarding: Guidance for Limiting the Transmission of COVID-19 for Long-Term Care Facilities (Update)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) adversely affects older adults and persons with underlying health conditions or compromised immune conditions. This population is at greater risk for severe illness from this virus.

Due to the vulnerability of residents in long-term care facilities, it is of utmost importance to limit possible exposure to COVID-19. A long-term care facility is defined by section 20-10-101(10) of the Arkansas Code and includes nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, post-acute head injury retraining and residential care facilities, and any other facility that provides long-term medical or personal care.

Effective immediately, the Arkansas Department of Health directs all long-term care facilities to restrict entry to only those that meet the following criteria after completing the mandatory screening process:

- Facility employees, contractors and consultants who are needed to keep the operations running and assure the residents’ needs are met.
- Government officials who in their capacity require entry (e.g., CDC or public health staff).
- Immediate families or friends who need to visit for critical or time sensitive reasons such as hospice-related visits, complete medical authorizations, etc. These visitors should be instructed to limit their movement within the facility.

In addition, facility residents shall only leave the premises for urgent medical necessities.

Please feel free to communicate with your loved one as much as possible via phone. We will also be setting up ways for our residents to communicate with family via FaceTime or Skype. Supplies for residents will still be able to be dropped off at the front door between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. A doorbell will be placed at the front door for these drop offs.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. For any questions, please call 501-922-0166.

Sincerely,

Phillip Petty, RN  
Director of Nursing

Matt Gipson  
Administrator

Erin Smith, LPN  
Director of Care