



September 23, 2020

Dear Family Members, Loved Ones, and Outside Parties:

I am writing to inform you of a recent development by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) allowing for the care of residents by Essential Caregivers within Seashore Gardens Living Center. Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers, private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, and pursuant to the NJ DOH Executive Directive No. 20-026, Essential Caregivers may assist in the care of individual residents at Seashore Gardens Living Center.

An Essential Caregiver is an outside individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to assisting and encouraging with activities of daily living and other care needs. The decision to designate an Essential Caregiver will be individualized and integrated with person-directed care planning. Please note that Essential Caregiver visitation is not solely to provide social visits.

Essential Caregivers will be subject to strict infection prevention rules during their visits within Seashore Gardens Living Center, including both social distancing and hand hygiene requirements. Also, Essential Caregivers must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during their visits and must watch the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) video on donning and doffing PPE.

For the safety and wellbeing of the residents and associates, Seashore Gardens Living Center staff members strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers demonstrate results of two negative COVID-19 tests before providing care to the residents: two back to back most recent COVID-19 negative results. The Essential Caregiver should thereafter continue to demonstrate negative COVID-19 tests on a weekly basis or two (2) negative COVID-19 tests prior to returning to provide care within Seashore Gardens Living Center.

Please see the attached “Seashore Gardens Living Center Rules for Essential Caregivers During the COVID-19 Pandemic” for more information on the Essential Caregiver program at Seashore Gardens Living Center. I have also attached the “Seashore Gardens Living Center Essential Caregiver Application” for your information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding the new Essential Caregiver program at Seashore Gardens Living Center.

Sincerely,

*Alysia*

Alysia Price, LNHA, LCSW, CALA, CDP  
Executive Director



## SGLC ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER APPLICATION

Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident Room Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Essential Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Application Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers, private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, and pursuant to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) Executive Directive No. 20-026, Seashore Gardens Living Center will permit outside Essential Caregivers to assist in the care of individual residents.

**As an Essential Caregiver, please explain how you will support and encourage the Resident with activities of daily living (ADLs) or other care needs and have an essential purpose.**

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**For the safety of our residents, staff, and your loved one, we strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers demonstrate results of two recent negative COVID-19 tests before providing care to the resident prior to the visit to the SGLC community. The Essential Caregiver should thereafter continue to demonstrate negative COVID-19 tests on a weekly basis or two (2) negative COVID-19 tests prior to returning to provide care within the SGLC community.**

Essential Caregivers can undergo COVID-19 testing through their own healthcare providers or at SGLC communities. Essential Caregivers can undergo COVID-19 testing at SGLC community by providing valid insurance information; Essential Caregivers are responsible for the unpaid costs of any COVID-19 testing at SGLC. **If you wish to undergo COVID-19 testing at your SGLC community, please attach a copy of your insurance card to this Application.**

**We also strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers provide proof of having received a flu vaccination to SGLC staff members by November 1, 2020.**

**Please return this Application to the community's Executive Director.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Caregiver Applicant  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Caregiver Applicant  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

**Circle One**

Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

Denied

## **SGLC RULES FOR ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers, private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, and pursuant to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) Executive Directive No. 20-026, SGLC will permit outside Essential Caregivers to assist in the care of individual residents. An Essential Caregiver is an outside individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to assisting and encouraging with activities of daily living and other care needs. The decision to designate an Essential Caregiver will be individualized and integrated with person-directed care planning.

### **Choice of Essential Caregivers**

1. All residents may receive Essential Caregiver visitation, except for those residents in a 14-day quarantine period, positive for COVID-19, and have not yet met the criteria for the discontinuation of isolation.
2. SGLC staff members must consult the resident or resident's representative (i.e., Power-of-Attorney) about the resident's wishes or best interests to determine whom to designate as the Essential Caregiver.
3. Those interested in serving as Essential Caregivers must complete the "SGLC Essential Caregiver Application." The Executive Director, in collaboration with the Director of Nursing or Director of Residential Living, will approve or deny the application to serve as an Essential Caregiver.
4. Both the resident and Essential Caregiver must sign the "SGLC Visit Rules, Informed Consent, Hold Harmless, & Release Regarding COVID-19" and "SGLC Essential Caregiver Agreement" prior to beginning the Essential Caregiver relationship.
5. Residents or residents' representatives may express a desire to designate more than one Essential Caregiver based on their past involvement and needs (e.g., more than one family member previously split time to provide care for the resident). In these unique situations, SGLC staff members will work cooperatively with the resident and family to work out a schedule to accommodate the Essential Caregivers. A resident may have no more than two (2) Essential Caregivers.
6. Essential Caregivers must be at least eighteen (18) years old.
7. Essential Caregivers must plan to visit residents at least once per week, absent exceptional circumstances or community prohibitions on entry.

### **Role of Essential Caregiver**

8. Essential Caregivers will support and encourage residents with activities of daily living (ADLs) and have an essential purpose.
9. Essential Caregiver visitation is not solely to provide social visits.
10. SGLC staff members will hold a care conference and care plan the role of each Essential Caregiver.

### **Testing & Screening Essential Caregivers**

11. For the safety and wellbeing of the residents and associates, SGLC staff members strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers demonstrate results of two negative COVID-19 tests before providing care to the residents: the first negative COVID-19 test should occur seven (7) days prior to the second test. The second test should occur no more than five (5) days prior to the visit to the SGLC community. The Essential Caregiver should thereafter continue to demonstrate negative COVID-19 tests on a weekly basis or two (2) negative COVID-19 tests prior to returning to provide care within the SGLC community.

12. Essential Caregivers can undergo COVID-19 testing through their own healthcare providers. Essential Caregivers also have the option of undergoing COVID-19 testing at the SGLC community by providing valid insurance information; Essential Caregivers are responsible for the unpaid costs of any COVID-19 testing at SGLC.
13. Essential Caregivers will always be screened prior to being allowed access into the SGLC community. Screenings shall include temperature checks, questioning on symptoms and diagnosis of disease (including COVID-19), and questioning on travel and interaction with those with COVID-19 and suspected of having COVID-19.
14. For the safety and wellbeing of the residents and associates, SGLC staff members strongly recommend that Essential Caregivers provide proof of having received a flu vaccination to SGLC staff members by November 1, 2020.

### **Essential Caregiver Visitation Details**

15. Essential Caregiver visits will be scheduled in advance with the SGLC community. Essential Caregivers may visit during the following hours: M-Su, 10a-3p. To reduce congestion during the screening process, Essential Caregivers may not enter the community during the changes of shift.
16. When SGLC is in the Red Zone (Phase 0 pursuant to NJ DOH guidance), a resident may have Essential Caregiver care one (1) visit per week for a maximum of two (2) hours (per visit).
17. When SGLC is in the Orange Zone or Yellow Zone (Phase 1 or Phase 2, respectively, pursuant to NJ DOH guidance), a resident may have Essential Caregiver care for two (2) visits per week for a maximum of two (2) hours (per visit).
18. When SGLC is in the Green Zone (Phase 3 pursuant to NJ DOH guidance), regular visitation will resume at SGLC.
19. Assisted Living residents must receive care from their Essential Caregivers in their own apartments. Healthcare residents must receive care from their Essential Caregivers in areas designated for such visitation by the community Executive Director.
20. Essential Caregivers must remain in their assigned areas for the duration of their visits.
21. Essential Caregivers must engage in hand hygiene and social distancing from others besides the resident while in the SGLC community.
22. The Essential Caregiver must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet with staff and other residents while in the community.
23. SGLC staff members may stop any Essential Caregiver visit or visits if it is believed that the visit or visits are not in the best interests of the resident or community.
24. Essential Caregivers must sign in and sign out of the communities on the Main Entrance Front Desk.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

25. The Essential Caregiver must always wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while in the SGLC community. Depending on the NJ DOH Phase, this PPE could include a mask, face shield, and isolation gown. Essential Caregivers must always wear masks while in SGLC communities.
26. Essential Caregivers must watch the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) video on donning and doffing PPE (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xy00pLT9M4&feature=youtu.be> ) and sign an attestation that they have watched same.



**Attestation**  
**CDC Sequence for Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

I have watched the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) video “CDC Sequence for Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)” and understand its requirements of me as an Essential Caregiver.

Video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xy00pLT9M4&feature=youtu.be>

(Please return this Attestation to the community’s Executive Director.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Caregiver Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Caregiver Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated



**Seashore Gardens Living Center Essential Caregiver Agreement**

Resident \_\_\_\_\_ (resident name) (“Resident”) is a resident of Seashore Gardens Living Center. Resident and Essential Caregiver \_\_\_\_\_ (essential caregiver) (“Essential Caregiver”) wish for Essential Caregiver to provide care for Resident and assist Resident in the activities of daily living.

Resident and Essential Caregiver understand that the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. Resident and Essential Caregiver further understand that COVID-19 is extremely contagious, and, as a result, federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing. Given the nature of the COVID-19 virus, Resident and Essential Caregiver understand there is an inherent risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 by virtue of proceeding with this Essential Caregiver relationship and care.

Resident and Essential Caregiver acknowledge the existence of the COVID-19 virus, the dangers of the virus, and the potential exposure to the virus that could occur as a result of participating in a Visit at Seashore Gardens Living Center. Resident and Essential Caregiver hereby acknowledge and assume the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 through this Essential Caregiver relationship and care and choose to participate in same. Resident and Essential Caregiver hereby acknowledge that an infection with COVID-19 could result in severe illness, up to and including, death.

Resident and Essential Caregiver represent that Resident and Essential Caregiver, each member of their respective households and immediate families, to the best of their knowledge, have not tested positive or shown signs Of COVID-19, have not been in contact with any person in the past 14 days who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for result of a test for COVID-19, and have not within the last 14 days arrived from or been in contact with someone who as traveled abroad or one of the states listed in the NJ Travel Advisory. Essential Caregiver and Resident agree to notify Seashore Gardens Living Centers Executive Director immediately by phone and in writing if there is any change in this representation at any time up to 14 days after Essential Caregiver participates in any visit to Seashore Gardens Living Center.

Essential Caregivers agree to abide by the “Seashore Gardens Living Center Rules for Essential Caregivers During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

**RESIDENT AND ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS RELEASE, AND INDEMNIFY SEASHORE GARDENS LIVING CENTER, AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR ANY EXPOSURE TO, OR LAWSUIT, OR OTHER CLAIM BY ANYONE AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS CAUSING INJURY, ILLNESS, OR OTHER DAMAGES ARISING FROM THE VISIT.**

**RESIDENT AND ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, AND INDEMNIFY SEASHORE GARDENS LIVING CENTER, AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR ANY INJURY TO RESIDENT OR ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER AS A RESULT OF THE ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER RELATIONSHIP AND CARE PROVIDED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Resident/Resident Representative  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Resident/Resident Representative  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Caregiver Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Caregiver Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated





## Seashore Gardens Living Center Visit Rules, Informed Consent, Hold Harmless, & Release Regarding COVID-19

Resident \_\_\_\_\_ (resident name) (“Resident”) is a resident of Seashore Gardens Living Center. The following attendees (“Attendees”) will visit with Resident on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of visit) at Seashore Gardens Living Center (print names of all Attendees):

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Resident and Attendees understand that the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. Resident and Attendees further understand that COVID-19 is extremely contagious, and, as a result, federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing. Given the nature of the COVID-19 virus, Resident and Attendees understand there is an inherent risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 by virtue of proceeding with this elective Visit.

Resident and Attendees acknowledge the existence of the COVID-19 virus, the dangers of the virus, and the potential exposure to the virus that could occur as a result of participating in a Visit at Seashore Gardens Living Center. Resident and Attendees hereby acknowledge and assume the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 through this elective Visit and choose to participate in same. Resident and Attendees hereby acknowledge that an infection with COVID-19 could result in severe illness, up to and including, death.

Resident and Attendees represent that Resident and Attendees, each member of their respective households and immediate families, to the best of their knowledge, have not tested positive or shown signs of COVID-19, have not been in contact with any person in the past 14 days who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for results of a test for COVID-19, and have not within the last 14 days arrived from or been in contact with someone who has traveled abroad. Attendees and Resident agree to notify Seashore Gardens Living Centers Executive Director immediately by phone and in writing if there is any change in this representation at any time up to 14 days after Attendees participate in the Visit.

**RESIDENT AND ATTENDEES AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, AND INDEMNIFY SEASHORE GARDENS LIVING CENTER AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR ANY EXPOSURE TO, OR LAWSUIT, OR OTHER CLAIM BY ANYONE AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS CAUSING INJURY, ILLNESS, OR OTHER DAMAGES FROM THE VISIT.**

### **I AGREE TO FOLLOW ALL RULES OF VISITATION AT SEASHORE GARDENS LIVING CENTER**

Resident/Resident Representative Printed Name	Resident/Resident Representative Signature	Dated
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Attendee Printed Name	Attendee Signature	Dated
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Attendee Printed Name (Parent or guardian if attendee under 18 years old)	Attendee Signature (Parent or guardian if attendee under 18 years old)	Dated
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Minor Attendee (if attendee is under 18 years old)