

Andrew Residence Statement on Essential Caregiver Program

Andrew Residence recognizes the importance of social distancing and physical separation to help keep residents safe from exposure to COVID-19. Andrew Residence also acknowledges the unintended consequences of prolonged social distancing and isolation on a resident's overall health and well-being.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) currently restrict visitors from long-term care facilities. Effective July 25, 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health has permitted long-term care facilities to institute facility-specific "Essential Caregiver" (EC) programs. MDH has made it clear that long-term care facilities are not required to implement an EC program.

Andrew Residence has worked diligently to keep COVID-19 out of Andrew Residence. Andrew Residence is pleased that no known COVID-19 exposures have occurred at Andrew Residence. In an effort to remain COVID-19 free, Andrew Residence intends to continue be very conservative in modifying our policies about who can enter our building. As a result, to protect the health and safety of our residents, Andrew Residence will not be initiating an EC program at this time.

This decision is based both on caution with continued community spread in Hennepin County, and the absence of identified family or friends who acted as Essential Caregivers in advance of COVID-19.

Andrew Residence will routinely review our decision to not initiate an EC program, based on facility COVID-19 exposures, facility COVID-19 status, community COVID-19 exposures, statewide and national COVID-19 trends, expert advice, MDH, CMS, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, and the health and safety of our residents.