

Cedars

Creative, Productive, Joyous Lives



Here is the answer which I will give to President Roosevelt...We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job.

Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965), Radio speech, 1941

Dear Cedars families,

In many ways the above quotation characterizes Cedars promise to our constituents with our response to COVID-19!

Clearly, we are concerned about our near future, as are all of you. But we are also working hard together--being thoughtful, proactive, and diligent--not just to keep everyone healthy but to ensure that our residents continue to lead creative, productive, joyous lives.

Some important updates in just the last week:

Most importantly, there are no residents who have any COVID-19 symptoms. While that is wonderful, our COVID-19 response team continues to meet regularly and we are preparing for virtually every scenario. In particular:

- Health Services (HS) has been making sure residents' medication supplies are not interrupted.

- Residents who need to see a physician have been connecting with their respective providers in person or via telephone via HS.
- HS continues to collaborate with local health agencies and sheriff offices to make sure we have the most up to date information. HS will be attending the biweekly city-wide conference call hosted by Marin Public Health Agency and Marin Health and Human Services for additional and relevant new information.
- HS is keeping up with house needs, such as masks and sanitizers. Local agencies have been helpful in providing these items on a limited basis.
- HS continues to offer staff training on the current Cedars protocol and provides information to questions staff may have.
- HS has been checking with residents to make sure they are healthy and supported. We've been providing fun activity-based tools for staff to engage residents.
- As of today (Friday) we will be sending out a newsletter to house staff that has information on simple stress management tools for our residents and health-oriented physical and mental activities, etc, that are simple to implement.
- We are working on starting a new support program called "Healthy Staycation," which mainly focuses on oral hygiene.

Programmatically, we are being as creative as possible:

- We are setting up a group on our existing Facebook page, [Cedars Life](#) to create a safe virtual space to come together where our participants and art facilitators can share their art, learn from each other and support their colleagues. (For more information on how to join Cedars FB page reach out to Mary Sullivan at marys@cedarslife.org or Yasmin Boroumand at yasmin@cedarslife.org)
- Day Program staff have initiated a regular call to their attendees to check in, provide additional ideas and support, and help ensure they are doing well. This includes not only Cedars residents but also participants who live in the community or are connected with other agencies.
- We are planning virtual jewelry classes with kits assembled by instructors and delivered by volunteers. Artists are also being provided with materials for a future show, "sheltered at home".

Cedars is considered an essential sector of business, and we have been following all the rules and regulations that allow us to continue to work through the shelter in place. Our dedicated residential staff are continuing to work each day and many day program staff are also working in our residences. We are still hiring and have modified the process to accommodate the situation and keep everyone's safety as our utmost priority. The administrative team is still working full speed, though dealing with the logistics of doing so from home.

Again, please know how much we appreciate your concern and support--it helps tremendously.

If you have questions related to residential services please contact Rob (415-717-9032), for health-related updates contact Kaeb (510-290-0222), or for any overall comments or concerns contact me.

Stay healthy--we will keep you up to date on this particularly strange adventure.

Best,



Chuck Greene
Executive Director
Cedars of Marin
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