

## **COVID-19 Precaution Updates to Patient Family Housing Program Policies**

In order to keep you and your family safe, and to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we have made some changes to our program's policies.

### **Guest Occupancy/Visitors**

In light of the hospital's limited visitor policy, we are only able to accommodate up to two adult caregivers and the patient. For their safety, no siblings or visitors are able to enter the houses.

### **Social Distancing & Masks**

We ask that guests maintain at least a six-foot distance between themselves and other families or staff, and all individuals 2 years old and above must wear masks at all times in the common areas. This includes those who have already received a vaccine.

### **Health Attestation**

Families will be asked if they have any COVID-19 symptoms prior to each entry to the building. If a guest presents with COVID-19-related symptoms, is diagnosed with COVID-19, or comes in contact with someone who has been diagnosed in the last 35 days, they will be asked to vacate for the health and safety of other guests. This includes those who have already received a vaccine.

### **Community Environment**

In the interest of keeping our patients, families, volunteers, and staff healthy, we have temporarily suspended all volunteer activity in the houses, and the playrooms have been closed until further notice. We are encouraging families to eat in their rooms and avoid lingering in common areas longer than absolutely necessary. Some individually portioned donated meals are still being scheduled, but as always, these are subject to change and are not guaranteed.

### **Infection Control Precautions**

At this time, kitchen and laundry room use is limited to one family at a time. We have lowered our occupancy numbers to facilitate safe social distancing, and bathrooms are now assigned to individual families rather than being shared between families.

We have increased our already stringent disinfecting procedures to include additional bathroom and common area cleanings throughout the day, and there are additional hand-sanitizing and disinfectant wipe stations, and Plexiglas dividers on the office doors.

### **Offsetting Capacity Limitations**

Given that we have had to greatly reduce the capacity in the houses, the Patient Family Housing Program has partnered with the Homewood Suites by Hilton Boston Brookline-Longwood Medical to provide additional accommodations for families. Homewood Suites is located approximately two miles from BCH and offers studios for \$70/night, with \$20/day parking (if desired), when booked through our program. The application for both the houses and the Homewood Suites is the same, so once you have submitted your application, no further action is needed to be considered for all of our program's available accommodations. [Please click here](#) for more information about our accommodations at the Homewood Suites.