Dear Laguna Honda staff,

I want to thank you again for all your hard work during this public health emergency. Our efforts are solely focused on keeping our Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) community safe.

We have confirmed that five employees of LHH are among the 176 people with cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in San Francisco.

One is a member of Environmental Services (EVS) and four are members of the nursing staff. No resident of LHH has tested positive for COVID-19 at this point.

Since late January, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has been actively preparing for the arrival of COVID-19 in our city. We have restricted visitors to LHH, with limited exceptions. On March 16, most people in the Bay Area were ordered to stay safe at home in order to slow the spread of the virus and keep our health care system stable. A new order to be issued today that will extend the stay safe at home order in ways that affect our LHH community.

While visitors to Laguna Honda have been restricted since March 6, the Health officer is now ordering that all residents of LHH to stay inside except for limited situations. Protecting the safety of residents as well as staff is the foundation of this order.

Residents who leave and then return pose an imminent threat to themselves, other residents, and staff because they may inadvertently bring the virus back to infect others and may themselves become infected. By keeping people inside, we are ensuring the safest possible outcome for our residents, staff and community. If a resident can safely discharge home or to another location, we will assess those requests on a case-by-case basis.

Attached is a detailed summary of the order. Please reach out to your manager or Executive partner with any additional questions.

Please keep healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Rykowski, MS, RN
Acting Chief Executive Officer
SUMMARY OF ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. C19-11
(Preventive Quarantine)

- Effective 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) is under protective quarantine for the safety of residents and staff.

- Laguna Honda Hospital will implement this order at 5 p.m. on March 25th, 2020.

- Each resident is ordered not to leave the LHH campus.

- Protecting the safety of residents as well as staff is the foundation of this order. Residents are extremely vulnerable to suffering the most serious complications of COVID-19 infection, including death.

- Residents who leave and then return pose an imminent threat to themselves, other residents, and staff because they may inadvertently bring the virus back to infect others and may themselves become infected.

- This protective quarantine is aligning with the Mayor’s (Order No. C19-07) and Governor’s (Executive Order N-33-20) orders to stay safe at home and allowing people to leave only to meet basic needs.

- Residents at Laguna Honda have all their basic needs met, including food, shelter, clothing, social activities, and certain types of health care.

- LHH has created a de-escalation plan to deal with a resident who wishes to leave and is in violation of this order. The plan includes education, communication and a quiet room for residents to retire to.

- If a resident chooses to violate the order, they will be engaged with by the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department. The goal is to have residents not violate the order. Under extreme cases, when a person is an imminent threat to the community in light of the current health emergency, hospital security may temporarily use reasonable force to the extent reasonably necessary BUT only after efforts have been made by LHH to de-escalate the situation. Those who violate the order are subject to temporary placement in a room for their safety, as well as the safety of residents, staff and the community. The room can be locked if appropriate, but its use includes monitoring and wellness checks.

- If a resident request to be discharged and the hospital staff deems a safe discharge is
possible, a resident may be discharged.

- A safe discharge is a discharge that is considered appropriate from a medical perspective, ensuring that a resident’s health care and other needs are addressed.

- A resident may leave the LHH campus only under these circumstances:
  - Off-site care is necessary for the resident’s health and well-being
  - A Safe Discharge is possible if the resident meets the criteria
  - In the event of any emergency where evacuation, release, or movement of a resident is required

- Laguna Honda will make the determination of whether off-site care is necessary.