

**SAMPLE – For Illustrative Use Only****COVID-19 Pandemic Risk Acknowledgment**

Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Long-term care and senior living settings offer many benefits, including recreational activities, access to medical care in our licensed care settings, companionship, autonomy, and privacy. However, these benefits are inevitably accompanied by certain inherent risks that are beyond the control of the community and its staff. This Risk Acknowledgment is intended to ensure that each resident and, as applicable, his or her family, is fully aware of, and accepts the inherent risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the inability of the community to eliminate or fully control such risks.

**Background:** There are many types of human coronaviruses, including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community in many geographic areas.

**Asymptomatic Transmission:** A particularly challenging element of the COVID-19 pandemic is the likely transmission by infected persons who do not exhibit signs or symptoms of illness. The disease may be spread by individuals who test negative for the virus one day but show symptoms a few days later. Individuals may spread the disease for several days before symptoms appear or test positive for the virus. This and other challenging features of the virus make it impossible for any senior living community or long-term care facility to guarantee resident safety from COVID-19.

**Unique Risks to Older Adults:** According to the Centers for Disease Control (the “CDC”), 8 out of 10 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older, and older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. Other underlying conditions that likely increase the risk of serious complications from COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, cardiac disease, obesity, diabetes, cancer (post-cancer recovery), kidney disease, lung diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, and impaired immune diseases.

**Unique Risks in Long-term Care and Senior Housing:** In addition to the general increased risks to older adults outlined by the CDC, congregate living situations present additional COVID-19 risks. In such settings, COVID-19 may originate with visitors, staff, visiting physicians, therapists, newly admitted residents, and the presence of individuals who may spread the disease without symptoms.

**Increased Risks from Leaving the Community:** It may be necessary for a resident to leave the community for medical appointments or other reasons. While away from the community, the risk of

exposure to the virus increases, and a returning resident may spread the disease upon their return to the community. **Our community does not make guarantees that a resident will not contract the virus while away from the community.**

**Our Efforts:** COVID-19 guidance from state and local governmental authorities, as well as public health experts and agencies, continues to evolve. Our community takes various precautions to protect residents and staff from COVID-19, in line with such guidance. The licensed care facility portions of our community are inspected by state officials for compliance with infection control regulations. Prior to signing this form, we have described our current efforts to protect our community from the risks of COVID-19. You have been given an opportunity to ask questions and review information we have provided to you regarding our mitigation efforts. You understand and acknowledge that these measures may change in response to changes in recommendations or changes in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Specific Acknowledgment of Risk and of Inability to Guarantee Safety:** Despite our efforts, you, or, if you are signing this on behalf of a resident, your loved one, may come into contact with someone who is contagious with COVID-19. **We cannot guarantee that residents, staff, or others that enter our community will not contract the virus.** By signing this acknowledgment, you agree that we have informed you that **we do not offer a risk-free environment** and that you can ask and have answered any questions regarding our approach to managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. **You have agreed to reside in our community or have a loved one reside in our community, despite the risks associated with COVID-19, including the specific risks described herein.**



Resident Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Party Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_