



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

May 13, 2020

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

We have always been fortunate enough to take full advantage of our location during the first two weeks of May as the lilac bushes in Highland Park bloom and festival events liven the grounds adjacent to St. John's Home. While the traditional Lilac Festival is not being held this year due to COVID-19, preventing families and residents from enjoying this annually cherished, joint activity, the staff team here at St. John's provides yet another example of rising in the face of adversity. Our St. John's Home Therapeutic Recreation Team will host our own Lilac Festival Days next week encouraging purple and pink attire, passing out kettle corn, and providing the chance to win raffle baskets of prizes.

This past Sunday, Mother's Day, was another showcase of our staff making the most of a challenging situation in benefit of our residents. If you did not get the opportunity to see coverage of our activities that day on WROC-TV-Channel 8 during the station's 6 p.m. news segment, you can watch the clip, read our follow-up story, and view photos [here](#). It was a proud day for all of us at St. John's!

St. John's Home had our first Infection Prevention/COVID-19 Survey site visit from the Department of Health (DOH) this week, when state surveyors walked through our environment, examined safety and sanitary practices with respect to infection control, and reviewed clinical practices as related to the coronavirus. I am pleased to share that we came through this unannounced survey with no major deficiencies or identified concerns with our clinical practices.

Our COVID-19 numbers also continue to reveal a positive trend of recovery. As of today, 41 residents have overcome the coronavirus, measuring against the DOH guidelines of being either symptom-free past the 14-day mark or receiving two negative test results. We believe that our current practices of comprehensive employee screening, universal use of masks and face shields on all resident floors, and cohorting COVID-19-positive residents with dedicated staff under full PPE measures, have been instrumental in achievement of these encouraging outcomes.

This week, we have also spent time in collaboration with the other Senior Housing Alliance nursing homes and consulting with our state representatives at our industry association Leading Age to determine how we can best respond to the new mandate delivered by Governor Cuomo over the weekend that all staff within nursing homes must be tested for COVID-19 twice weekly. Although we have yet to identify a feasible plan for implementation, we do have the overarching goals of selecting a testing procedure that is the least invasive, covered by insurance (at no cost to employees), and can be done on site at St. John's. We will share more information with you as it becomes available.

As our local Finger Lakes Region plans for a partial reopening next week, we know that we must continue to be diligent in our implementation of the effective infection control practices that are critical to keeping your loved ones safe and healthy.

Thank you for your unwavering support of St. John's as we progress through another week of this journey.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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