



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

June 11, 2020

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

The arrival of summer weather in our area has certainly been a welcome sight. Scenes of residents enjoying the courtyard and Trinity Garden at St. John's Home have been frequent throughout the past week. As elders interact with each other (at a safe distance) as well as the employees accompanying them to these spaces, a bit of normalcy has returned to our community. Our situation has greatly improved over the last couple of weeks and it has been nice to be able to pause to take a few deep breaths—and to have those breaths be of fresh air.

While the number of active COVID-19 cases has dramatically decreased, we know we must continue to be vigilant with efforts to keep residents safe and healthy. Infection control protocols—such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing, and proven disinfecting measures—will remain in place long past the time when we are free of active coronavirus cases in our community.

Once again this week, we have fielded several questions about the resumption of in-person visits with residents. An interdisciplinary team is meeting and working on plans to make “window visits” happen as soon as possible to provide face-to-face interaction between residents and loved ones. This group is also developing plans and protocols to put in place once New York State allows for the reopening of skilled care and senior communities to outside visitors. Planning for both window visits and future in-person visitation involves a lot of moving parts, with maintaining the safety of our community and ensuring fairness for the hundreds of residents we serve, as the main priorities. We will, of course, keep you updated on our progress.

Know that while we are committed to reuniting residents and families as soon as we can, visits will most certainly be different than before. Upon reopening, visits will likely occur in designated areas off of the neighborhoods where people live. All visits will be scheduled and monitored to ensure proper social distancing. More than likely, visits will be limited to a maximum number of loved ones, at least initially. Completion of a health screening (including a temperature check and questions pertaining to your possible risk of exposure) as well as the use of PPE will be mandatory for all visitors.

In anticipation of Father's Day on Sunday, June 21, we are encouraging family members to create and submit short video messages to all of the fathers living at St. John's. Our Mother's Day initiative resulted in you submitting over 100 videos, which we then showed to each mom in the community on their special day. We are hoping for a similar response, but are asking that each person send no more than two videos for their loved one. You can find details on how to create and send your video message [here](#).

This week, we are grateful for the successful completion of the New York State Department of Health's infection control survey at St. John's Green House Homes. We are proud to announce that the survey resulted in no deficiencies. Additionally, New York State has changed the guidelines for COVID-19, allowing for once a week staff testing. This decrease from mandatory twice per week testing will allow us to continue monitoring the health status of our employees, while also freeing up valuable resources as we continue to bring back the amenities and conveniences that are important to residents.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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