



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

June 4, 2020

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

As the Finger Lakes region continues to move forward through new phases of the "Unpause New York" plan, more and more services and conveniences that we have gone without since March are restarting throughout the Rochester community. As we see non-essential public services and amenities like barber and beauty shops and outdoor seating at local restaurants become accessible again, it is natural to contemplate a timetable for nursing homes and other senior care communities to achieve similar resumptions. Understandably, we have had several conversations with residents and family members over the past few days asking these questions. Of course, the question on most people's mind is when we will be able to reopen our communities to outside visitors.

At the moment it is difficult to predict when St. John's communities will be open for visitors again. We do anticipate that New York State will establish guidelines for reopening—likely in phases, as is occurring throughout the community at-large. And while we do not know the "when" regarding resumption of services and an eventual reopening, we have been hard at work determining "how" we will be able to safely and efficiently bring back important comforts like group activities, meals in the dining room, and outside visits with loved ones. We have spent time taking inventory of all that both residents and St. John's staff have lost over these past months, which has led to thoughtful discussions about how we will be able to re-establish these important opportunities for engagement.

Please know that we understand just how difficult it has been for residents and their loved ones to be physically separated. We share in the anticipation of seeing you reunited as soon as possible. We understand the important role the support of loved ones plays in the overall well-being of residents. The work we are putting in now will allow for us to re-establish visitation and other amenities as soon as New York State gives us the go ahead. We are confident that the strategies we have learned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic will complement our previous best practices (and any additional state guidance) to make these experiences memorable.

This past Tuesday, June 2, we received results from mass resident testing at the St. John's Green House Homes in Penfield. We are happy to report that all of the resident tests performed by the Department of Health last week at the green houses came back negative for COVID-19.

Last week we began mandatory, continuous COVID-19 testing of all employees in compliance with the New York State requirements. Per requirements, all staff will be tested weekly until the mandate is lifted. This new testing protocol has been a significant undertaking, with staff from our nursing department as well as employees from other disciplines working tirelessly to meet this new responsibility. So far, over 900 tests have been administered. I am pleased to report that of the more than 400 test results we have collected thus far, all have been negative for COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued patience and support for St. John's residents and staff. I hope this message finds you well.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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[stjohnsliving.org](http://stjohnsliving.org)