



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

August 20, 2020

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

Recent New York State legislative hearings discussing COVID-19 incidence within nursing homes have also brought to the forefront broad concerns over the Governor's recommended slow reopening of skilled care facilities. We have certainly witnessed firsthand the impact of the required 28-day COVID-free litmus test to determine whether or not a facility can open its doors to visitors. It has been heartbreaking to watch the anticipation of residents and loved ones as St. John's Home approached the final days of this required window, only to reach Day 27 with the occurrence of a positive staff test result, which forced us to start the counter again.

We believe that our residents thrive through personal, physical engagement with loved ones. While we have been pleased to be able to offer interim measures such as video chats and window visits, we believe as strongly as you do that these compromises to in-person visits are not equivalent and cannot be the long-term solution.

While we are bound by the requirements established by our governing bodies such as the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we do recognize that advocacy at both the individual family member level and as part of alliances with other nursing homes across the state are our most effective means of driving changes. That is why we are asking for your help, should you feel so motivated. Advocate with us for a thoughtful approach to reopening visitation.

To this end, you may wish to contact New York State [Senator Michael Razenhofer](#) or Assembly Member [Harry Bronson](#) within the district of St. John's Home or the specific lawmaker for your district through the New York State [directory](#). New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo can also be contacted at 1-518-474-8390 or by using this [online form](#).

This week, we also had the unfortunate occurrence of having our first positive COVID-19 resident test result since May 24, which we have identified was due to exposure during an off-site medical appointment in the community. After conducting contact tracing and thorough testing of all residents and staff members within the neighborhood most at-risk of potential direct exposure, we are grateful to share that there have been no other persons for whom the test results came back positive. The residents, family members, and staff members within the neighborhood directly impacted by this occurrence have previously been notified.

As always, if you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of us at St. John's and most directly to the leadership team for your loved one's neighborhood. We have recently updated the Neighborhood Staff Directory, which is linked [here](#) for your reference and convenience.

Thank you for your continued support of our St. John's team as we partner with you in the care of your loved one.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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