



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

September 11, 2020

Dear St. John's Home Residents and Family Members,

On this nineteenth anniversary of September 11th, our country remains in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite forward progress made in New York State. Nursing home regulations also continue to evolve in every way except with respect to the one change that would be the most meaningful to our families and residents. It was announced on September 9, 2020 that the required 28-day visitor restriction period of being free of any COVID-19 cases was being reduced to 14 days for assisted living/adult care facilities, as well as pediatric nursing homes. Nursing homes such as St. John's Home are still subject to the 28 days rule, where any one positive test sets the timer back to day zero.

In addition to this change, there is a new unsupported mandate with respect to additional required testing for residents. As you may have experienced in these past months, when there is a staff member who tests positive at St. John's, we have used contact tracing to target the scope of residents who may have had an exposure to that staff member and therefore, for whom we implemented testing. This viable process for determining areas of resident impact has resulted in varying sizes of groups of residents being impacted based on neighborhood sizes. The new mandate requires St. John's to test ALL residents and staff members every 3-7 days until there are 14 days with no new positives for any instance of a single staff member or resident positive test. Currently, staff members are tested every week; however, this expansion also requires us to conduct resident testing on a greater scale.

In order to adhere to this new mandate, St. John's expects that we will need to use a variety of testing options for residents. The availability, types of test available, processing times, and manner of testing continue to shift and evolve, both nationally and locally. Subsequent to any staff or resident positive test result, we will use the most clinically appropriate and available style of test for your loved one. In other words, a low-risk or no-risk exposure may be done with a nasal test that takes 72 hours for results to be returned, while a moderate risk exposure will be conducted through a nasopharyngeal test that takes 24 hours for results.

Given the expected frequency and volume of testing, we will not have the ability to call every family member before and after each test. Therefore, if you are the medical decision-maker for your loved one and do not consent to your loved one being tested, please email updates@stjohnsliving.org or call 585-292-5200 with your name, phone number, your loved one's name, and the statement "I do not consent to (loved one's name) being regularly tested for COVID-19." It is necessary that you contact us by September 17, 2020 if you do not wish to provide consent. If you do not consent to broad regular testing, you may still be contacted if there is an exposure that the clinical team is concerned about for further discussion.

At this time, residents who have previously tested positive and have recovered from COVID-19 are not subject to this additional testing; however, this may change in the future. We are also currently looking into ways to automate the communication of a negative test result.

Special Saturday Window Visit

We know that with the summer ending and many workplaces reopening, the ability for some families to see their loved ones at a window visit has become increasingly limited. We are pleased to share that on Saturday, September 26 we will be hosting a special weekend day for window visits. This day is intended for folks who have not ever been able to attend a window visit on a week day. Therefore, we ask that if you are able to visit during the week, please do not to take the slot of someone who cannot do so. Sign-ups are now being accepted for this special session through Wednesday, September 23 at <https://www.stjohnsliving.org/st-johns-home-window-visits/>. We are grateful to the staff volunteering to help make this possible.

Sincerely,

Nate Sweeney
Vice President of Skilled Services

Embrace Living

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