



February 26, 2021

Dear St. John's Meadows and Brickstone by St. John's Residents:

Many of you have read or heard about the changes for visitation in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. In order to clear up any misconceptions, I include here information that was shared with St. John's Home family members via a *Letter from the CEO* released today. I will also provide a visitation update for our independent living communities in this communication.

Effective February 26, 2021:

- The guideline that stipulates a facility must be free of a positive COVID-19 case in a resident or staff member for 14 days before a facility can open for indoor, **In Person Visits** is still in effect. (Strict social distancing and the donning of personal protection equipment by visitors are still required during this type of visit.)
- To be eligible for indoor, **In Person Visits**, visitors will be required to produce evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 7 days of the visit if the Monroe County rate of infection is below 5% and within 72 hours if the rate of infection is between 5 and 10%. A listing of open testing sites available to Monroe County community members can be found [here](#).
- Under the updated guidelines, the definition for **Compassionate Care Visit** eligibility has been expanded; however, it remains highly individualized. We are reviewing the expanded definition and evaluating qualification eligibility for each resident at St. John's Home. The primary contact of each resident who qualifies for a **Compassionate Care Visit** will be notified directly within the coming weeks to schedule this type of visit and to discuss requirements for the visit (including the COVID-19 testing requirement noted above).
- Receipt of the COVID-19 vaccination does not preclude a visitor from having to meet the testing requirements noted above.

It is important to note that visitation guidelines have not been significantly altered with this new update for skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities. Unfortunately, full visitation, in a manner that our families may be recalling from the period of time pre-pandemic—when visitors were able to fully access the facility and interact with loved ones without screening or pre-entrance requirements—has not been restored.

Visitation and screening policies have also not changed at our senior living communities. We continue require all visitors to:

- Make an appointment to visit in the designated rooms at Briarwood, Chestnut Court and Brickstone.

- All visitors must wear a mask at all times and remain at least 6 feet apart.
- All visitors must only use the primary entrances of the communities.
- All visitors must sign in at the front desks.

There are also new screening changes at the main entrances effective March 1, 2021 as detailed below.

**All Desks:**

- Colored day dots are no longer required.
- The screening process remains the same when staffed by a concierge.
- In the absence of a concierge, the sign sheet at the desk will be completed by staff/aide/care person.

**Briarwood Desk:**

- Monday-Friday: 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m .

**Brickstone Desk:**

- Sunday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- The midday 30-minute concierge break may not be covered.

**Chestnut Court Desk:**

- Sunday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- The midday 30-minute concierge break may not be covered.

**Hawthorne Desk:**

- Sunday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Entry to all visitors remains closed until further notice.

I have been made aware by a very observant resident of the following phone scam caution.

*"You've probably heard of the "Can you hear me?" fake phone call in which, if you say "yes" they record it, and cut it into another tape in which you appear to say yes to buying something and, of course, the "yes" is indeed in the mark's voice. I have received three of those calls today. Which, I suspect, indicates that other residents may be getting them too. I simply reply "I can hear you," which seems to confuse the heck out of them. Then I hang up and block the number."*

*"If you are a habitual "yes" sayer, have someone practice saying "Can you hear me?" to you so that you can practice automatically NOT answering with any kind of wording that could be taped and used to make it look as if you agreed.*

*Never say "Yes" on the phone to someone you do not know."*

I hope this word of caution is helpful to you all.

We have successfully wrapped up Round II of the Vaccination Clinic and I must, one more time, praise the great work of Tony and Cara, who organized and assembled all the moving parts to make this happen; the RNs from St. John's Home; who gave up their primary responsibilities to assist us; the staff team at senior

housing, who without a pause stepped up to help out; and last but not least, HEALTH DIRECT PHARMACY, which without its ability to offer the vaccine and administer all the paperwork that had to be filed with the state and federal agencies, the clinic would not have been possible and we would still be waiting to get that elusive appointment for the vaccination.

For this week's touch of humor:

**Chocolate covered Peanuts** - A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times. When she is about to hand him another batch again he asks the little old lady, 'Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?' 'We can't chew them because we've no teeth', she replied. The puzzled driver asks, 'Why do you buy them then?' The old lady replied, 'We just love the chocolate around them.'

And, finally, light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak

Take care and stay safe!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Bartlett".

Paul Bartlett, Vice President of Senior Housing