



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

June 8, 2021

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

As you may be aware, a New York State law was recently enacted, and supporting regulations were released, to prevent the future separation of nursing home residents and their loved ones, which was experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. While St. John's Compassionate Care guidelines currently in place are in alignment with the new law/regulations and allow for our residents to receive visits that support their needs, we are mindful that New York State guidelines continue to evolve in the best interests of skilled care residents and their families.

One specific parameter of the new law, by which St. John's must additionally comply, in order to prepare for future pandemics, is the identification of two "Designated Visitors" for every skilled care resident. These designated visitors would "in concept" be able to visit despite restrictions being enacted in a future pandemic; however, the specific details of how, when, and at what frequency these visits would be conducted have not been outlined by the current regulations. At this time, the new law supports the identification of two designated visitors for each resident to be on record at every skilled care facility.

To implement this new requirement for identification of designated visitors, St. John's Social Work Department will be asking all residents of both St. John's Home and St. John's Penfield Green House Homes who are able to make their own decisions to identify two designated visitors to have on file and who would have visitation privileges should future restrictions be enacted. If a resident cannot make his/her own decisions, the selection of two designated visitors will be made by the resident's named health care proxy.

If you are the health care proxy for your loved one, we request that you reach out directly and as soon as possible to your assigned St. John's Social Worker with the following information below identified for two designated visitors:

Name:
Relationship to resident:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email address:

This information should be provided to the social worker on your loved one's neighborhood by **Monday, June 14**.

The full listing of named designated visitors will be reviewed quarterly for necessary changes. Also, should the visitation restrictions increase to a point where only designated visitors would be permitted to enter the facility, the process for ensuring their respective access will be communicated directly to the named designated visitors.

It is important to reiterate that there are **no changes to the current process** you are using to visit loved ones at St. John's. This process continues to include: scheduling your visit; getting screened to enter the building; taking part in the optional but strongly encouraged COVID testing; and wearing personal protective equipment throughout your visit.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement safe visitation practices in protection of residents, staff members, and visitors.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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